

**New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation Archive  
Oral History Collection**

**Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis**

**003.PPF.083**

**Interviewers: Rachel Carrico**

**Date: March 25, 2017**

**Location: Tremé Community Center, where Davis was about to teach a second line dance class to visitors from France**

RC – All right, so could you start just by stating your name, date of birth, and where you’re from?

RD – All right. First of all, I’m Rodrick, but the whole world know me by Scubble --

RC – Rodrick, and, last name.

RD – Davis. My name is Rodrick Davis, but second line world, I’m known as Scubble. Footwork King, and all that stuff there. But I’m actually from this area here, which is the Tremé area, and I was born March 14, 1991, just made twenty-six bout a week ago.

RC – Ah, happy birthday!

RD – Yeah, so I’m blessed to still be here. [00:00:39]

RC – And so you grew up in this area. Tell me about your family growing up.

RD – Well growing up, I’m not the type to complain, but growing up it was kind of rough, losing my father at a young age, like, three years old, losing him to the violence, and stuff like that, but it happens when you live in an environment like this, but I wouldn’t change where I come from for nothing, but yeah, so my mama, she had to carry a lot of the load through us growing up and stuff like that. But, you know, she passed while I was still in high school, also, just, I was seventeen at the time, so I had to look after my little sister, who was fifteen at the time, and stuff like that. I mean, I couldn’t, I can’t complain, I just had to grow up, I had to become a man early. So, that kind of pushed me away from basketball and everything that I wanted to do, then I had a son at an early age, so I had to focus on that, but, yeah, man, it’s --

RC – And through all that, even when you were in high school, you were dancing.

Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RD – Yeah, through all that, I still was, that’s why I show, like, that’s where I show, that’s where I release anger, that’s where I relieve stress, that’s where, whatever’s going on, it can be all over during dance. Like, when we have a funeral, like, when we have a funeral, like when we laid my dad to rest, we had a second line afterwards. When we laid my mom to rest, we had a second line after, like it’s really not, you know, we don’t look at it as a sad thing, we look at it like a homegoing celebration, so we don’t want to remember them being in a casket, so we know this the last time we gonna hang with their body, so we gonna make sure we enjoy and they be right there with us through the whole time. I mean, they say that we absent the body as a present for the lord, but you know, we, while we still having that body, we feel like we still got some part of someone, that you here. So we just take, we just roll with the casket, and sometimes you see people dancing on top of caskets, sometimes you see us just, you know, walking with it during the second line and stuff like that, but yeah, we just, we like to make it more of a homegoing celebration, but yes, through all that stuff, I still was second lining. I mean, I been second lining since I was, like, four years old, like I said, I’m twenty-six now, that’s like twenty-two years. Most people who say they been doing this for over twenty-some years, all of them are over forty and fifty years old, but yeah, I kinda got an early start. I got, I wasn’t trying to wait that long.

RC – And how did you get into it so early? [00:03:01]

RD – I mean, like generation-- like my grandmother was into it, like my great-grandmother was into it, like, you know, my grandma Shelbra [Woods] was, she never missed a second line. Like how I am today, that’s how she was when she was my age. Everybody who Shelbra was, she was the brightest lady, she had the reddest hair. She was out there, you ain’t, I mean, it was back when the Dirty Dozen [Brass Band] was still rolling, like, she was out there. She was out there, she wasn’t missing a beat.

RC – Is your grandmother still alive?

RD – No, she’s also deceased. She actually, I actually have her right here on my arm.

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RC – Mm. And your, was she a member of a social and pleasure club, or was she just a regular second liner?

RD – Yeah, she was a member of a few, I can't name 'em. There's a few of them, I can't think of the names, cause it was so, it's a minute ago, but yeah, she was a few of 'em, but nit was all in the Tremé and Sixth Ward area, like --

RC – It must have been, like, in the late '70s, early '80s?

RD – Yeah, late '70s, late '70s, something like that, like all during that time, like, yeah, she was --

RC – Some of the clubs around then were, like, the Jolly Bunch, the Scene Boosters --

RD – Mmhmm!

RD - -- Prince of Wales was around, but they --

RD – Yeah, she wasn't with them. She wasn't with them, but Jolly Bunch sound familiar, that could be one of them. [00:04:16]

RC – Yeah, cool. And then your, with both of your parents, you said there was a second line for their funerals. Were they in clubs too?

RD – My father, he was into the second line; he didn't do no second line parading, or, I think he actually played a bass drum. I can't play an instrument, me, I'm at a second line, but my mother, she was actually in a few social pleasure clubs, she was like the Dumaine Street Gang, she was one of the ladies parading with the men. Cause they got the ladies and the men, but like, the men wanted to have a parade with them, stuff like that. She paraded with the men, then she had, she was the Dumaine Gang Ladies, also, then she paraded with me when I was with [WORD UNCLEAR] and stuff like that. Then she kind of like, she fell back off there as they got older, when she saw me putting so much into it, so she was like, 'I'm not worried about me no more, I'm just gonna let him do his thing.' Like, she, like, she loved watching me second line and stuff like that, so when she, when she passed, like right before she passed, we had this little talk. She was telling me, 'When I go, don't do all that crying for me and stuff like that,' I'm like any other guy, I'm like,

Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

‘Mom, don’t anybody want to hear all that stuff right now, I don’t want to have that shit.’  
‘I’m just letting you know, when I go away, I don’t want you to be doing all that crying, just roll for me. Roll for me.’ So, when it happened, that’s the only thing that was in my mind, like, of course during the funeral, I was down, I was at my mom’s funeral, so yes, I was crying and stuff like that, but as the funeral go on, and like, the band go to come in the funeral home, cause like, we don’t wait, we don’t wait, that’s how we shed everybody’s tears, we know there’s tears – when that band come, everybody wiping their face, and they know what time of day it is, so all of a sudden, I just, like, one of them, like, man, my mama really gone. Then it hit me, when the band come, oh, I was like, man, she ain’t gonna know, she ain’t gone, she ain’t know, this ain’t nobody but her. Soon as I thought of that, the band came, and when the band came, I thought of her telling me, ‘When I go, don’t leave with all that, just go out.’ So immediately, I just jumped out of the chair, just started dancing in the funeral home, the whole funeral home jumped up and started joining me, and I gave her another kiss before we went outside, we rolled on outside, and we just paraded around the whole neighborhood, like it was really big. Like, man – when my mama passed, it was more of a concert than a funeral.

[laughter]

RC – Did they play any dirges, or did they just go straight to like the up-tempo stuff?

**[00:06:42]**

RD – They played a mixture of everything, “[I’ll] Fly Away,” they played a little “[Oh Didn’t He] Ramble,” they played a little slow tempo, like the dead man walking, stuff like that, we always got to do the dead man walk, that’s just to send ‘em home. And then we crank it up. We gonna slow it down, bring ‘em on out, laugh right through the flowers and stuff like that, get they last little tears out, but after that, it’s all straight to business, it’s time to work. Time to do what we can before.

RC – What was your mom’s name?

RD – Her name was Sandra Davis. Yeah.

RC – Wow. Did you say the dead man walk?

Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RD – Yeah.

RC – Yeah, is that like the slow dirge?

RD – Yeah, that’s the, one step at a time. But me, I parade with a few clubs, I parade with the Money Wasters, the Dumaine Gang, Sudan, Sidewalk Steppers, where I’m currently at, that’s my, I’ll pray to everything before, but I done came back to that, that’s where I’m gonna stay. Yeah, but I gotta issue love to a lot of clubs, like the Dumaine Gang, Money Wasters, the Sudan, like, the Sudan, they kinda taught me a lot, coming from, like, tradition-wise and stuff like that, like they actually, they taught me a lot, like I love those dudes, I love those guys forever.

RC – And what kind of stuff, tradition-wise, did they teach?

RD – Like, the dead man walking stuff like that, like they focus on, that’s what they focus on, they focus on tradition and music and, you know, you know, they be, I be, it be like a tradition, something like that’s been around for, like, years and, like, generations. Don’t get me wrong, they get into funky stuff, but they try to keep it tradition. That’s what, that’s the more fun part, though, like I love traditional music, but I’m, I love second lining so much, like, you know, I don’t argue about which band is playing, I don’t argue about what song they playing, I just want to hear the music. Whatever they playing, I’m dancing. [00:08:43]

RC – And just for the record, too, I don’t know if I asked you, what was your father’s name?

RD – My father was Rodney Amos, but everybody called him Scubble.

RC – Oh really?

RD – He, his, that’s where I actually got the name Scubble from, from my dad, but they used to call me Lil Scubble when I was small, but I’m not little no more.

RC – Uh huh. And do you know where it came from, where’d they get the names from?

RD – I think, my grandma actually gave him the name, my grandma and my grandpa, and I ain’t get a chance to ask her that.

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RC – Uh huh, where it came from.

RD – Yeah --

RC – That's what everybody knew him as.

RD - -- I inherited from him, and like, by me losing him at a young age, like, I took too much pride in it, like, you know, and then, growing up, like all I got was like, 'Man, you look just like' people that been knowing me always say, 'You the split image of your father.' Man, man, like people that ain't seen him for years, they see me now, and some of them see me, and just be like, 'Man, I thought I saw a dead man,' stuff like that, and then some people don't even know me, just stop and ask me, 'What's your name?' Ask me stuff like that. And then, like, this one lady, she asked, heard somebody call me Scubble, she said, 'Scubble?' She look, she said, 'Who you came to?' I said, 'Who do you, who you trying to know? Like, who you trying to know?' She said, 'Cause I heard that name before, but I got a partner named Scubble, he got killed a long time ago.' I said, 'Yeah, that's my daddy.' She almost fainted, like she just almost passed out.

RC – Yeah. Was he a dancer too? [00:10:14]

RD – Nah, he was a bit more, he was a wild card.

RC – Uh huh. You said he was a bass drummer.

RD – Yeah, he did play the bass drum, but he was, he's one of those type, I'm gonna get what I want by any means.

RC – Uh huh, uh huh. And you have your own family now.

RD – Yeah, I got a family, I got, well, my son just turned seven now, I was about to say six years, he just turned seven, March 5, yes, his birthday a week before mine, we both Pisces, so we kinda like, we just, we doing, we be doing all that thing. And my daughter who is just like the, oh man, she is like the selfish part of my heart, my daughter break any man down, I don't care who you is.

RC – How old is she?

RD – She two now, she be three Christmas Eve.

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RC – Uh huh. And are they, are you getting them into second lining?

RD – My son, he's already into it, my daughter, she's coming along. We actually did this commercial not too long ago, me, Terrylyn, and a few other guys, like they, they saw the commercial, and like I had seen on the roof --

RC – Yes, I saw this, with Terrylyn Dorsey, right, it's for a water, a water company.

RD – Yeah, electrolyte.

RC – Electrolyte water, yeah. [00:11:27]

RD – They shot a commercial, then they saw me on a roof, they lost their mind. They crawl on the floor, they lost their mind. That's, like they want to come and say, 'Oh yeah, we was, we shot a commercial,' and they just took over, 'Yeah, we saw you on the roof, and you was' – she like, 'Will y'all be quiet,' and they were just ignoring, they were kinda going. It was funny, but it made me feel so good, the way my kid was so excited to see me doing something positive on TV, like I ain't in no handcuffs or nothing like that, or being harassed by the police, like, I'm doing a commercial. And it they first time they see me, like every time they see me, like, it's, it's always some, this, I really want to be a role model for my kids, and have my son wanting to be like me, and not like no other basketball player, that's a hell of a feeling.

RC – Right. Yeah, I bet. And since you brought up getting on the roofs --

RD – Yeah.

RC - -- I have to ask you about this. This is something that you do all the time, right?

RD – I do.

RC – Just about every parade.

RD – A lot of people think I walk around with a ladder, but I'm like, how?

RC - [laughs] You've got some, like, pit crew on the side, running the ladder – no, you just scale up the sides of buildings, whatever.

RD – Yeah, I mean, I, don't get me wrong, I always, I'm, it's --

Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RC – [*Speaks to people coming into the center.*] Y’all can come in and have a seat if you want, we’re just, we’re doing the, it’ll be maybe about twenty more minutes, just doing this interview. Yeah, yeah.

RD – So, it’s always a, I’m always safety first with it, so [Carrico laughs] when I, well, before I get up there, the first thing I gotta do is observe the whole thing, like, this will get blocked here. Like, I see a roof, and know I want to get, and I’m already checking, how can I get up there, but don’t hurt myself before I get there. So, by the time y’all get down there, I’m already in, ten feet in the air. But yeah. **[00:13:13]**

RC – And I think I told you this last time we talked, a few years ago, I asked if there’s a name for this, for doing this, like the dead man walk, that’s --

RD – Yeah, for getting on the roof? Nah, nah, I just, I just go, it’s just like a, I’m not afraid of heights, and I think to strive to the highest extent. And then I like to get the people a show, like every now and then I just want, you know, to do something different every once in a while. Since, like at first, it was just a fun thing for me to get on the roof, and like, all right, they look at me on the side, pretty, like, ‘How you get up there so fast?’ But now, when I’m at the second line, like that’s what they look for. I done started out, I done started my own trend. I got the kids doing it now! But you know, I tell ‘em, you know, ‘Watch yourself,’ you know, please don’t do that at home. Cause I don’t want to take the blame. When I see them up there, and I see them enjoying themselves, having fun, like it’s like, it’s a feeling. All the kids at the second line love me. All the kids at the second line love me.

RC – Yeah. I mean, you are a role model to more than your own kids --

RD – Yeah!

RC - -- all the kids out there.

RD – That actually makes you feel like, you know, you actually have a purpose here in life, you here for something.

RC – Yeah, yeah. So, how does it feel when you’re dancing, and sort of when you hear the music, when you’re just really in it, how does it feel?



Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RD – Oh, I could be, like it’s a good time, it’s so different, feeling than the one, but like, I could be, like right now, like we having this interview, I could be, we could be in [WORD UNCLEAR] and the band could come, I’m about to jump up, I might go far, you, ‘Where are you, where all of them? We not finished, we not finished!’ But if I can hear it, before I get to the band, then we could feel it, but if I get to the band, I done lost focus for everything, like, we been, like on Sundays, we been talking about something, the band would start, I start dancing, it’s over. We get to the next stop, they be saying, ‘Yeah, now what you was saying?’ I be like, ‘What?’ [laughs] I be like, ‘What?’ I don’t know, you got, it gotta come back to me. They just played “Money Work,” I have no idea what I was talking about. [00:15:22]

RC – [laughs] And do you have any favorite songs or favorite bands right now? You said you don’t care what the band is, but do you have favorites?

RD – Yeah, I really don’t care which band it is, cause, don’t get me wrong, like I like a lot of the bands, they got a lot of really decent bands out here, but you know, for

RC – Is there a song that when you hear it you’re like, “That’s my song?”

RD – Oh yeah, it’s actually “Money Work.”

RC – “Money Work?”

RD – “Money Work,” yeah, that actually me and my little brother’s song. Yeah. Like I said, I don’t, like I like a lot of bands, but like, you know, and I have a lot of love for Da Truth Brass Band, cause you know, they actually sound good, you know, they still young, they still coming, but my favorite band will forever be TBC [To Be Continued].

RC – TBC, yeah.

RD – My favorite band would be TBC, that’s my, that’s my friends outside of the, outside of the band world, which is truly, also, but like, you know, like I been rocking with these dudes since on the corner of Bourbon and Canal, like just my posse – when I say my posse, I’m talking about, it’s actually my parain, he took care of me, like, my whole life, like my father died, was murdered at three, he told mama, right then and there, ‘This my son, I got him. Focus on your daughter. Whatever he needs, I got that.’ Came and got me

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

every weekend, every summer, like, he, to this day, his son call me brother, I call him brother, we introduce ourselves as that, you know, I introduce people that's, you know, this my pops, and stuff like that, like, I don't get into detail. Some people that grew up with me and some of the adults, they already know, so that's why, sometimes they'll see me, they'll be like, 'Where your dad at, where your dad at?' And some people, who don't [PHRASE UNCLEAR] be like, 'What they talking about?' And then I have to explain, and then it's awkward to deal with. Yeah, I been with, me and him both, we been rocking with TBC a long time. A long time, that's my dudes. That's my dudes. A lot of people have they, you know, they [PHRASE UNCLEAR], whatever, but that's the same people that come see 'em every Wednesday [at Celebration Hall], like it kills me, like the same people that have so much to say about the band, come see the same band, like, they have, they doing something right.

RC – They're voting with their feet.

RD – Yeah, they're actually voting with their feet. You talk, you say this, you say this here, you say that there, but each and every Wednesday, you showing up here. That's saying something. [00:17:42]

RC – That's right. Cause for a while now, TBC's had that Wednesday night gig going --

RD – I don't see nobody else with a gig that's been going on for years, like TBC, they, with this, seven almost eight years now.

RC – Right, and they were at Celebration Hall for a long time, until very recently.

RD – Yeah, they were at Celebration Hall for a very long time, due to the fire and stuff, and all that stuff, that kinda like shut it all down, so we was at Hollywood and stuff like that, but then they came to an agreement with the Autocrat, so each and everyone is at the Autocrat, like --

RC – Yeah, two weeks now at the Autocrat, right?

RD – Yeah.

RC – They're gonna stay, it sounds like.

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RD – I think everybody'll love it. They'll love it, they'll love the new spot.

RC – Yeah.

RD – I mean, it's, we always gonna be team Celebration, I mean it's the same thing, but you know, it's right next door, so it's just a few more steps.

RC – Right, right, yeah.

RD – It's just a few more steps.

RC – You've kinda already answered this, but I'll ask it just a little bit different way: what role does second lining have in your life? **[00:18:41]**

RD – Oh, second lining has a major role in my life, like, like I said, gets me through, it gets me through whatever sad day I have, whatever bad day I have, anything that's, you know, that's, feel like it's tearing me apart, or it's breaking me down, you know, thirty minutes of, a thirty-minute set change all that, like I'm not, like, forget it all. Whatever happened, happened. Whatever it is, is. Whatever I can't do, I can't do, but this band about to play, I'm about to enjoy this right here. This is how I get through, this is how I get through and life, how I overcome all obstacles, it's how I, this is how I, that's, the second line is how I defeat the devil. And it keeps me from, it keeps me out the way. They can't, I ain't doing nothing wrong, I mean, it's, it's actually taking me places, like, in the hallways, I mean, I didn't see myself, you know, Jazz Fest and all that extra stuff, when I, you know, when I started second lining, I started second lining because I loved to second line. And my love for it and my passion for it I guess started showing, and me showing up here dancing, and me showing up there dancing, like, other people just started to see what I felt in my heart. And that's just that. But I'm gonna second line til I can't walk.

RC – Well, does anything ever keep you from either a set on Wednesday night with TBC, or a Sunday second line?

RD – Oh, yeah. If it's not my kids, then it's work.

RC – Yeah, right.

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RD – But majority of the times, I have, or tend to have Wednesdays off, like Wednesday nights off. Sometimes I, if I got to work overnight, then yeah, that's, I plug in my headphones, I'm there in spirit!

RC – You put in TBC --

RD – TBC!

RC - -- in your headphones?

RD – TBC on the Soundcloud! TBC on Soundcloud.

RC – I love it. And where do you work?

RD – I work in a restaurant out in Metairie, then I work at a plant off of Esplanade.

**[00:20:43]**

RC – Ok, ok. And what is the plant?

RD – It's TCI packaging.

RC – I love that, you're still there in spirit with your headphones on.

RD – I'm there, I'm hearing the band! I got TBC right here, I know they're playing on Wednesday; right now they're playing here, at my job.

RC – Uh huh. Do you work in the kitchen at the restaurant?

RD – Yeah, in the restaurant, I work in the kitchen. When I'm in the kitchen, I could do the headphones. When I'm working on – cause I work in the kitchen and I work on the floor, cause like, they be having me multi-tasking due to the fact that, I don't know, I guess it's me having a lot of energy, they use it everywhere. They see me at the second line, and I'll be up there, like, 'You feel like busing?' I don't care. And all the waiters, they want me to bus every day, but I can't, nah, I can't do it every day, like I'm, I work in the kitchen, but every chance I get, they putting me on the floor, just cause I, I'm not waiting, and I'm constantly moving back and forth, like, I can do twelve hours with no problem. It's like, so my, I guess my energy just, it helps me in so many way, like it takes a very a lot for me to get fatigued, and then when I feel myself getting fatigued, like I

Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

push myself, like I’m gonna push it to the limit, like any time I feel myself getting a little fatigued, I be like, nah, you ain’t tired, come on!

RC – Mind over matter.

RD – Yeah. Sometimes I might go, I might go to a second line without a bottle of water.  
[laughs]

RC –What, just cause you don’t think about it?

RD – Yeah, I’m not thinking about it, and the music kind of playing, or I say, ‘I’m gonna get me a water at the next stop,’ having short conversations, band start up, I’m not looking for no water! [laughs] Once the band start, I’m not looking for no water, no cooler, no nothing. Sometimes, like a lot, majority of the time when I second line and I ain’t got no water, it’s either because all the people that selling water, like, they know me, they see what I’m doing out there, and, like, you know, they, I mean, they make it, they, of course that’s how they make their money, but, you know, you gotta give something to make something, so when they see me, it’s like, ‘Hey man, take a water, you look like you need it,’ and stuff like that, so a lot, majority of the time, I wouldn’t even have to chase ‘em, now, they already know I’m trying to stay with the band, or my friend might bring me something, but yeah, I mean, I know you gotta hydrate yourself, like the water said, let me, we got life. Like electrolyte, y’all should try it, Twist, it’s actually wonderful.

RC – The electrolyte water. [00:23:02]

RD – Yeah, it’s --

RC – [laughing] Especially since you’re on the commercial.

RD – Yeah, it’s good.

RC – Did they give you any free water for doing the commercial?

RD – Yeah, we got a nice supply of water, and stuff like that, yeah.

RC – Uh huh, did they, was it a paying gig?

RD – Yeah.

RC – It was, that’s good. So you’re making a little bit of money [CROSSTALK] --

Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RD – Yeah, my legs is actually how I eat. Like, I didn’t see it, I didn’t plan for it, but if I can make a living doing what I love doing, that’s something I could do forever.

RC – Yeah, well right now, you’re about to teach this [dance] class --

RD – Yeah, I --

RC - -- which teaches French people who are visiting New Orleans --

RD – Yeah, they actually, they leave tomorrow, so they been, we been conversating. We been trying to do the class for almost a week or something now, it’s just like the time wasn’t enough, but now we bout to – it’s crazy too, cause when somebody found out I was going to France, I was like, damn, we making it over there?

RC – They’re paying you, right? It’s a paying gig? [00:23:55]

RD – Yeah.

RC – Yeah, that’s great. What, the talk of money also reminded me of the financial obligations of belonging to a social pleasure club --

RD – Yeah.

RC - -- they’re pretty, depending on the club, they’re different, I know.

RD – Yeah, a lot of clubs are different when they come to parading, cause every club have a certain budget that they want to follow. Every club have a set budget that they want to follow. Some clubs, you know, [burps] excuse me, don’t mind spending a little more money, some clients don’t mind spending that much, spending a lot of money. But it’s not really about the money that you spend, it’s just, you know, you paying your dues, you know, whatever y’all decide, y’all wanna, that’s, that’s, club-wise, you can’t worry about what the rest of the people gonna say. So what if they, if they spent a thousand dollars, and they spent two thousand dollars, oh well, y’all paid y’all money, y’all paid y’all money to parade, come on down and parade, don’t worry, people gonna have things to say about you regardless, that’s what so crazy about the second line, everybody’s so judgmental. It never was about judgment, it was about paying for you, you paying to do something that you wanna do, so whatever, how somebody else feel about you, it

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

shouldn't even much matter. But that's, with the Sidewalk Steppers, we had, like, they known for spending, like, a pretty penny. Whether it's cause, like, we wanna look the best, they wanna feel like they look good, they wanna meet high expectations, like they don't wanna be compared to no one, they want, like, they wanna be in a land by themselves, they not trying to compete with nobody, like, we support all social pleasure clubs, we support events, we'll buy tickets, and all that. So when we come to, you know, like everybody got one Sunday, you got one Sunday to show out, so that's all our mindset, to show up and show out. That's why we got our own model, they do what we want. And we do what we want, they do what they can. But all of them are like that. But, it shows. We don't care, though, cause it's not about them. Long as we all acquainted in the club, and we don't have no problems in the club, we're not worried about what nobody else talking about.

RC – Right, right. I mean, there is a competition between clubs, right, where --

RD – Yeah, don't get me wrong, it's fun when it's friendly competition, oh, we gonna, you know, we gonna smash y'all, we gonna shut it down, like, that's the fun part, like, that's always been there. But like, when people go to feel insulted, when they feel like, this club done did this, or they such and such, like, like come on, man, like, grow up, like y'all too old for that, like, I'm still young, and I don't do all that, like that's not, come on, man, grow up. Grow up. [00:26:42]

RC – Yeah. Hearing you talk about that reminds me of the history of social aid and pleasure clubs, that the social aid part is people would pay their dues so that when you got sick, or somebody passed and had a funeral, you could pull from that, you know, and have money to help each other.

RD – Yeah, the clubs that do all that, like, our club just does it, I can't speak on all clubs. Our club like that, majority of 'em do like that, but some of 'em, I won't say everybody do like that, when you find out your needs, you have, the club helps like that, like we, we come to meetings, and we talk about everything at the meeting, but it don't leave the meeting. That's why people that's not parading that year, or that's not, you know, in the club, like when you in a meeting, it's only club, it's club members only. Like, something

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

that's for the club that's not for everyone else. That's why people be asking, like, what the colors is and with stuff like that, we can't reveal that. You know, until like, the day, you know, a week or two before the second line, we can tell the colors, but as for what we wearing, and stuff like that, that's not for wide, we can't do that. People be like, 'Man, y'all know!' Still no, we can't do that!

RC – Yeah, it's kind of about secrecy.

RD – It's supposed to be a surprise. Everybody wanna know how you look, and everybody not supposed to know how you look before you get out there.

RC – Right, right.

RD – And that's why we so strict on that. [00:28:01]

RC – And I know a lot of clubs will do sort of like, give back to the community --

RD – Yeah, like we had, we had did a, like when we had victims for the tornado, stuff like that, we was giving away food, stuff like us; it wasn't just us, it was other clubs. But like, if we, yeah, we play the big role in it. We, we don't, you know, we don't wait for tragedy to happen for us to give functions and stuff like that, like, we'll do it just to give back to the community, or just to give a little, we have a fundraiser, we didn't ask for nothing, we just looking for donations, but we have the space for all kinds of stuff for kids, and stuff like that. Like, like we were really, we reach out to the whole city, not just, you know, our neighborhood, stuff like that.

RC – Right, right. And so that's kind of, yeah, the, your club, and a lot of clubs, in particular, still sort of do that social aid part in that way, and then, what about the pleasure part? Like, it's a social aid and pleasure club, right?

RD – Oh yeah, the pleasure.

RC – Talk to me about the pleasure part of it.

RD – The pleasure part, like, is all, all the, like the part once we, no one's having to pay for, then you get to see your, show your money. Well, we're doing this, such and such, and you go to wonder, 'Damn, how much it is?' Oh, that's paid for, you paid for that in



Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

your budget. That’s when you go to be like, ‘Oh yeah, we doing this, and we got this,’ and next thing you know we got this club luncheon, and we got the club ball, then we got the club dance, stuff like that. Then, of course, the thing to top this, the day when we come out the door.

RC – Uh huh, so the parade is sort of like that culminating event to all these other, like, social others.

RD – The parade is kinda like bases loaded. [Carrico laughs] I’m at the home plate, hitting the home run, that’s the grand slam.

RC – I love that comparison. [00:29:48]

RD – Yeah, that’s, that’s --

RC – Did you come up with that?

RD – I just thought of it.

RC – Ah, it’s great! It’s so good. [laughs]

RD – I just thought of it.

RC – So yeah, so talk to me about the dancing, and like, experiencing pleasure, or the music, and just, or maybe another word is better, like that word’s pleasure been around a long time, but maybe today we would say something like enjoyment, or fun, or something else.

RD – Ah, man, the music – sh. I mean, it’s all, Missy Elliot, she made a cameo in her song and I thought it was so true, she was like, ‘Music make you lose control.’ That’s --

RC – Mm. Who said that?

RD – Missy Elliot.

RC – Ah.

RD – She said that on her song, ‘Music make me lose control,’ I was like, it definite does. But yeah, that’s what it do, and the music come, and we, and it’s time, man, yeah, you definitely gonna lose control. But, your adrenaline is pumping, your heart feel like it’s

Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

beating at two thousand beats per second, you like, if I don’t get out this door right now, I’m just gonna lose my mind!

RC – You don’t look like you lost control in your body, though, when you dance.

RD – Nah, nah, nah. I actually try, I try to stay on beat, because it looks better like that, and it shows, it separates the, you know, I don’t want to say the bad ones from the good ones, it just separates, you know, you from certain class. Like, getting on, everybody I know at the second line can second line pretty decent, but then you got some that is just, you know, just blow your mind away. Some, you might look and just be like, don’t get me wrong, this person could dance, but I just feel like that person can really dance. And stuff like that, yeah. [00:31:33]

RC – Yeah, yeah. And that, it seems like, for somebody, like you said, when people see you, they see you can really dance, and yeah, you’re on beat, and you have a lot of skill, but it’s also so clear that your heart and soul is in it.

RD – Yeah, that’s where it coming from, like, the way people dance, it’s gonna show, like, some people come out there, and go out and just feel like, oh, I want to do this. You know like, oh I want to do that. Me, I was like born into it, where I’m like, yeah, the second lining, and all that stuff, it kinda like, it started in the Tremé area, so of course, this neighborhood gonna be on it, that’s why you likely have a second line band in the Tremé area any day, like from Sunday to Saturday, a band could be playing anywhere in the neighborhood. Anywhere, anywhere. And they’ll be like, what that is? That’s a band? And we could be on Tremé Street, and we can hear the band on Robertson, the whole house, we checking out, we trying to go catch it where it is for thirty minutes, or more than thirty minutes. Cause people don’t feel like, that’s actually a long time, depending on what you’re doing. Like, it’s gonna go fast, cause the band playing, and you dancing, but you try out, try standing in a push-up position for thirty minutes, you’ll see how very long that is, that’s a very long time.

RC – Uh huh. Yeah. Yeah. I, yeah, the way you dance is, it’s a lot! It’s a lot of energy.

Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RD – Yeah, I tend to, what’s the word I’m looking for? It lay to me, like some shit, you, I had her out of breath because of the way I was dancing, and how long I was dancing, stuff like that, people want to know, how could I go for hours, I mean, like, I dance every Sunday. Every Wednesday. That’s cardio. Hot! How you can’t get fat? If I’m burning that many calories a week, there’s no possible way I’m gonna get fat. No possible way.

**[00:33:28]**

RC – Yeah. So, in this, you already kinda answered this question, but I’ll go ahead and ask it: why do you do it? You’re so dedicated, you sacrifice a lot of money to be in the club, a lot of time that you could be whatever, doing other things, you know, to second line. Why do you do it, why is it so meaningful to you?

RD – I want to say, you – I want to say, you got basketball players that make all this kind of money. Then you got some that, you know, you got, you got superstar basketball players. And you got football players that make this kind of money, then you got superstar football players. And when you look at the superstars, you look at them like, ok, that’s, they at where they at because that’s what they was put here for on this earth. So me, when it come to second lining, I feel like that’s what I was put here for. I ain’t make it playing basketball, because that’s not, that wasn’t my, that wasn’t my thing, that wasn’t my thing at life, I was sent, I was sent here to do this. This is why I’m here, cause I’m like, I didn’t try to, I didn’t try to get into nothing, like it’s just, everything came to me. Everything came to me, so once I saw that, like man, I could do this every day. Every day, I could second line every day. Every day. I, if I, if I could second line every day, and make the money that I’m making when I’m working, I wouldn’t, then I wouldn’t have to worry about it. But until it get like that, I’m gonna have to work. It’s getting there, it’s getting there, though.

RC – It’s getting there, huh? All right. Commercials --

RD – Commercial, the class, classes every now and then, and then people be booking me for weddings and stuff like that, cause I do all that, weddings, stuff like that, like I’m doing, I’m going out the city now --

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RC – Really!

RD – Yeah, I went to Bogalusa, I did Texas, and Georgia.

RC – Uh huh, uh huh. And when you go, do you go with the bands?

RD – Yeah, they book the band, and then they book the Grand Marshall. When they, cause a lot, when they call me about it, they ask me about it, I ask them, do they have a band, or do they have a radio, stuff like that, and there, you know, there's a time, we was trying to get a band, we can't get one, then I call around, and --

RC – I see. Oh, so they call you first, and you get the band together.

RD – Yeah. [00:35:55]

RC – Oh.

RD – Yeah, cause the lady, she had a ball, and there was just one, they wanted me to come to the ball, and I asked, did they have a band, they was trying to get one, but the lady out there told her that contacting me, I'd find and get a band for her. I was like, yeah, I'll call. Got all the band members!

RC – Yeah, right.

RD – All the band members. Come Sunday, I want to know who playing, and did y'all start yet. So I keep all the band members' number. [laughs] From every band. [laughs]

RC – Right, right. Yeah! I think that you, that's everything I wanted to ask you about. Was there anything you wanted to add, for the record that I didn't ask about?

RD – I don't know. Each and every Wednesday, [laughter] [PHRASE UNCLEAR].

RC – Yeah, you know, people might be listening to this in like thirty years, fifty years, who knows.

RD – Yeah, [PHRASE UNCLEAR]!

RC – [laughter] Maybe at that point they'll be like, 'Oh! That's that guy I saw on, you know, whatever some movie.'

RD – Yeah, it's getting close to Jazz Fest.

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

RC – Yeah, it is getting close to Jazz Fest. And you dance at Jazz Fest every year now, huh?

RD – Yeah. That was a big accomplishment for me.

RC – Yeah? When did that start? **[00:37:19]**

RD – Man, that started at a second line. I met Quint Davis at a second line, like, bout, this crazy, because I didn't know who he was. I'm just at the second line, and he got a t-shirt on, some shorts, and some tennis shoes, I'm just, in my move, and I just see this guy just kept looking at me. And he looked at me, then he walked up to me, and he handed me a card, and he started talking about Jazz Fest coming up, and I want you to talk, I want you to contact me, I want to see about getting you on stage, I'm like, I'm with that! But by me being at the second line, and me not knowing who the man was, I'm like, it sounds good, but you know, people just be talking! But, they had a lady sitting there watching him do all that, and then watching him watching me, and when he walked off, he saw my body language, like, I'll see what's up, but I ain't really put full interest in it. So she walked up, she stopped me, she said, 'Baby, you know who that is?' I looked at her, and I told her honestly, I said, 'Honest and truly, I don't.' She said, 'That's Quint Davis, you know, you need to talk to that man, that's somebody you might want to do some business with. He helped a lot of people with these social aid and pleasure clubs,' til like, I was like, 'Huh?' And she said, 'Yeah, that's the man who work with Jazz Fest and stuff like that.' I said, 'Yeah, he just was telling me about putting me on stage,' she like, 'Baby, you need to call that man.' So, a week go by, I call him, tell him who he was, then he go to telling me, before you know it, I'm coming out to the Fair Grounds, signing the contract. Now I'm on stage with TBC at Jazz Fest, New Breeze, Hot 8, Rebirth, the Stooges.

RC – You come out dancing when all those bands play.

RD – I, like the past few years, I was at Jazz Fest every day.

RC – Wow!

RD – I mean, it's fun, it's fun, like a lot of people wanna focus on the money, I mean, of course you want to get paid for your work, but like, I'm doing something that I love, like,

Interviewee: Rodrick "Scubble" Davis

Interview Date: March 25, 2017

sitting around, not like, I'm gonna second line regardless, so of course if I'm gonna get paid for it, I'm gonna, that's gonna be even, it's gonna be fun! It's gonna be fun. I'm like, what? Do something I love to get paid? I think that's something everybody wanna do --

RC – That's right.

RD – -- in life.

RC – That's the dream. All right, Scubble, I, that's a great place to end. I'm glad you added that. [00:39:49]

RD – Yeah.

RC – All right. Thank you so much.

RD – Thank you.

**END OF RECORDING**

*Transcribed by Jess Pinkham, 10/25/16*

Interviewee: Rodrick “Scubble” Davis  
Interview Date: March 25, 2017