

MISSISSIPPI STREET ROD ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

January 1996

No. 107

BITS & PIECES

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE.....1995 was a good year for MSRA. We tried some new stuff, like the picnic cruises. They were well attended. Dixie Run was as smooth as could be. We've got a few new cars under construction and some potential new members. So my hope for all is to build on this and have another even better year for our club in 1996. As you can see by the partial schedule of events for the year, there will be **plenty** to do this coming year. It will just be up to you to take advantage of it. Some of you have been off busy with other things. We've really missed you. Come on back and join us. We're having a great time each other and with our cars.....MSRA has been invited to ride in the inaugural parade for Governor Kirk Fordice on Tuesday, January 9 at 1:30. They were asking for special interest cars to carry various politicians and celebrities in the parade. I know it may be tough to make arrangements for a work-day event like this but it sure would give the rods a lot of recognition. So far, confirmed by parade officials will be Sammie's 34, Joe's model A , and Kathy's Camaro carrying the three Public Service Commissioners, and Kim in the '37 will be carrying USM president Aubrey Lucas. If any of these cannot make it, we will need backup cars. The whole thing is supposed to be televised, so the rods should get some nice exposure. If any of the rest of you want to participate, let me know, they can always use backups and additional cars.....Thomas Smith of Brookhaven has been appointed the new NSRA Safety Inspector for the state of Mississippi. Tommy, known to most of us as "Chicken Willie" had been one of the assistant inspectors for the past couple of years. Congratulations CW, I know you'll do a fine job.....Eleven street rods rode in the Clinton Christmas parade last month. The next weekend about 50 folks enjoyed the club's Christmas party at Raymond. There was enough food for a small army, and everyone left full and happy. The Olympic medal award presentation was classic.....MSRA will host the annual street rod winter planning meeting on Saturday, January 27 at the Western Sizzler Restaurant on Highway 80 in Flowood. This is just off I20 east of Jackson at exit 47. The meeting will start about 10 a.m. and should run until mid afternoon. There will be a break for lunch at the restaurant. Each street rod club in the state is invited to send representatives. The agenda will be up to you. Bring along any subject you'd like to discuss, plug your rod run, and share your experiences with the other clubs in the state. Please bring copies of your membership list and club officers with names and addresses. NSRA reps will be on hand also. Plan to come join us again this year. These meetings always bring out some good ideas that we can all use as we go about our club activities during 1996.....I hear that someone at T-Tommy's house gave out an engagement ring at Christmas. Who is she, Josh?.....I saw in one of the magazines where NASCAR champion Jeff Gordon is having a '33 Ford coupe built by a pro in Indiana. Hope he'll have time to drive it some.....It's time to make reservations for the ride to the NSRA Nats at Knoxville. Who plans to go this year? The number at the Creekstone Inn in Pigeon Forge is 1-800-523-3919. Specify the Creekstone, as there are four motels under this 800 number.

GARAGE SCENE

We're still chipping away at our project cars and trucks. The coupe is not too far away from running, but I'll admit I did not touch it at all during the holidays. Played golf instead. Pasture pool.....Don Wade is still working on his sedan delivery.....The Round One hasn't touched the Chrysler, so far as we know.....I still plan on beating both of them in the race to see who rides

first.....Wayne Thomas has ordered fenders and running boards for his formerly fenderless '34. He's changing grille shells, too, so the car will take on a whole new look for '96.....I hear Les Rude is building a '41 Ford coupe.....Down in Louisiana I saw a '38 Chevy coupe being built by Billy Wascom. Talk about low to the ground. I couldn't get my shoe under the running board. He made a 3 window out of a 5 window.....Sammy is already talking about a 350 for his new '34 Ford. He has one on the stand almost ready for installation. Some new heads are on the way,.....T-Tommy is preparing a new engine for his pickup.....Jack Creel has the radiator about ready to go back in his '40 truck.....Dee Dukes has the 'big stick' running again. It was at the Christmas party.....Brian says the new heads and carburetor have his '39 running fine again.....I hear that Lloyd Smith is busy working on his newly purchased '37 Chevy coupe.

SHADE TREE MECHANICS: SAM & DAVE DO A BATTERY TRANSPLANT

The T-Shirt person had most graciously loaned me his '41 Chevy, partly to allow Sammie and I (Sam & Dave) to fix a vacuum leak for him and partly to show the car around Jackson with hopes of finding a potential buyer for it, and partly to give me something to ride in the Christmas parades. The morning of the Brookhaven parade, the battery was dead. Wouldn't even click. After consulting with Sam, who urged me to torque it to manufacturer's specs (he always does that) we decided that a good couple of hours on the old battery charger should make everything all right. In a short while the gauge looked OK so we prepared to go to Ol Brook to kick off the jolly season with some of the rest of our bunch who were already waiting. It cranked fine. Going down the driveway I turned on the heater, (it was cold), headlights, (it was dark) and CB (that bunch will talk about you if you don't have your radio on). As I hit the big road I glanced at the voltmeter. It was falling faster than Sherry Fisackerly. I watched it go from 14 through 13. About a mile down the road it passed 12 volts. By two miles it was down to 10 and falling. I called the bunch on the CB and told them I was going to try to make it back home before I had no spark at all. Next morning, Sam came over with his battery tester he got from Toys R Us and decreed that the battery was something less than spectacular and probably wouldn't light up a lightnin' bug's tail. We took a break and then off he went to get a new battery while I attempted to remove the old one. The battery was mounted in the rear of the car. Not saying that it was hard to reach-**BUT**- First you had to take out the spare tire (which was flat, by the way)The tire was fastened to a panel which had to come out also. Removal of this revealed a locked door. I took another break and accidentally found the key stuck in the spare tire. Unlocking the door revealed a tunnel that disappeared up into the interior of the car. I started to crawl into the tunnel and a couple of bats flew out. I took another break and waited for Sam to return. He rolled up just as I made it out of the tunnel. He took a look at the situation, we took another break, and decided on a plan of attack. He tied a rope around my ankle so I would not get lost and I started into the tunnel with the new battery. "Sam, can you give me some more slack on that rope, my foot's going numb." Some more bats flew out. After crawling another 20 or 30 yards I could finally see the battery. As I rolled to one side to get in a better position, my flashlight caught some ancient writings inscribed on the side of the tunnel. Must have been left there by some ancient mechanic. I can't read hieroglyphics all that well but Sam said it translated to something like "*Be it Interstate, AC Delco or Exide; One rule by which thou must abide. Thou shalt know that battery cases should **not** be placed in **obscure places.***" Truly words to live by. At least it rhymes. "Pull me out, Sam I'm finished. These @#* bats are trying to make love to my flashlight". Soooooooooooooo, on **MY** coupe, the longest battery cable will be 18 inches. and the battery will sit just opposite the starter. I need to take another short break.

SCHEDULE FOR 1996

Quite a few new events have been added to the schedule since last month. It is still far from complete, but should give you a good list of events from which to plan your year. More will be added as the summer schedule progresses. We try to include all events we can find out about. If your run is not listed here, please let me add it to my list. Call me at (601) 372-8050.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
1996**

JANUARY 13-14	Race car show at Fairgrounds
JANUARY 19-21	Winter Rod Run, Diamondhead pre-'69
JANUARY 27	Statewide planning meeting, Jackson
FEBRUARY 10	Dixie National Parade
FEBRUARY 10-11	Pemberton Mall Show, Vicksburg
MARCH 2	Ricky Salyer All-American Autorama, Brookhaven
MARCH 8-10	Bayou Self Rod Run, Houma, Louisiana pre-'49
APRIL 6-7	April Fool's Run, Magnolia, Arkansas pre-'49
APRIL 13	Strawberry Classic Show & Swap Meet, Hammond La.
APRIL 13-14	Bunny Run, Jackson Tennessee
APRIL 13-14	Deep South Rod Run, Birmingham, Alabama Pre-'49
APRIL 19-21	Sunny Beaches Rod Run, Pensacola Florida pre-'49
APRIL 26-28	Dixie Street Rods 14th Annual Rod Run, McComb Ms pre-'49
MAY 3-5	NSRA Nats South, Knoxville Tennessee pre-'49
MAY 17-19	Spring Fling, Covington Louisiana. pre-'69
MAY 18-19	Goodguys Dixie Nats Perry, Georgia. pre-'72
MAY 25-26	Goodguys Lone Star Nats, South Fork, Plano, Texas pre-'62
MAY 25	Annual Shrimp Boil, Memphis Tennessee. pre-49
JUNE 14-16	18th DIXIE RUN, Holiday Inn SW, JACKSON MS. pre-'49
JULY 12-14	Klassy Kruzers Rod Run, Crossett Arkansas pre-'49
JULY 18-21	NSRA Street Rod Nationals Columbus Ohio pre-'49
AUGUST 9-11	NSRA Southwest Nats, Oklahoma City pre-'49
SEPTEMBER 13-15	Ole Brook Cruz-in VIII, Brookhaven, Ms
OCTOBER 5	Ole Brook Festival car show Brookhaven, Ms
OCTOBER 5-6	Arkansas SRA rod run, Lake DeGray, Ark pre-'49
OCTOBER 11-12	Ole South Rod Run, West Monroe, Louisiana pre-49
OCTOBER 18-20	NSRA Southeast Nats, Tampa, Florida pre-'49
OCTOBER 25-27	Halloween fun run, Tupelo Ms. pre-'49
NOVEMBER 8-10	Rude & the Dudes Rod Run (Bubba Nats) Biloxi Miss. pre-'59
NOVEMBER 29-30	Turkey Run, Pensacola, Florida pre-'49

EDITORIAL

If you look at any current issue of magazines like *Rod & Custom*, *Hot Rod*, or *Street Rodder* you will see that each is sponsoring and participating in some sort of cross-country hot rod tour. These look like fun, but from this writer's view, they all make the same point. The magazine editors, the west coast car builders, and the "powers that be" seem to have **finally** discovered that you can **drive** street rods. My gosh, our friends Richard & Joyce Gaston, Paul Acey, Charlie & Betty Manning, and Jerry & Gwen Mowery have been driving street rods **all over the USA** for the past fifteen years. So it is hilarious to me that they fill page after page of their magazines with stories of these "new" adventures. And I think I'll scream if I see one more article on that guy's primed model A roadster "beater". Heck, that's the way the dadgum thing is **supposed** to

look. And he actually drove it in the **rain**. Oh give me a break.

Now don't get me wrong, I certainly admire and respect the beautiful creations by Mr. Coddington and those guys. But it is particularly gratifying to see these guys actually discover that you can **drive** their rods, and seem to be building them now with **driving** them in mind. Put the trailers away. Welcome to **street** rodding, guys.

TUESDAY CROOZDAY SCHEDULE

January 9	Hudgey's on Daniel Lake Blvd.
January 16	Scottie's Restaurant on Terry Road
January 23	Jerry's Fish House in Florence
January 30	Fernando's in Byram
February 6	Red Hot & Blue Bar-b-q on County Line Road
February 13	Mazzio's Pizza in Brandon
February 20	Hudgey's on Daniel Lake Blvd
February 27	Dunchy's on Raymond Road
March 5	Scottie's Restaurant on Terry Road

CHRISTMAS PROJECT

The cash you donated at the Christmas party was matched with enough additional club money that two families were able to enjoy a better Christmas this year. The youngsters in the families received presents where otherwise there would probably have been nothing. Your gifts allowed for payment of the butane expense for one of the families who otherwise would have had no heat during this recent period of very cold weather. The other family was able to use some of the money to travel home to visit parents and grandparents for Christmas. Otherwise they would have spent the holiday alone. Not patting ourselves on the back--just thought you'd like to know, they thank each of you.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

There will be a board of directors meeting for club officers and directors Saturday afternoon, January 13 at Sammie Howell's house at about 1 o'clock. With a rod run the next weekend and the state planning meeting on January 27, there will not be a regular club meeting in January. But starting in February, Prez Sammie tells me that the perfect attendance incentive program will be in effect again for 1996. All members who have perfect attendance at scheduled club meetings during '96 will be eligible for a drawing for motel expenses paid to a rod run of your choice in '97. Four people were eligible in '95: Wayne Thomas, Charlotte, me and Sammie Howell, with the drawing winner being Sammie. Personally speaking, I was just proud to say that Charlotte and I made all the meetings. It is tough. Some of those Sunday afternoon meetings I'd really rather have sat home where it was cool and watched whatever NASCAR race was on TV. But that's what VCR's are for I guess. It does take a bit of commitment on your part. So try to be there during next year's meetings. One thing we'll be doing in the January board meeting is trying to plan some interesting things to do during the coming year that you will not want to miss. Hopefully, most of the club meetings this year will revolve around some kind of a cruise or something. **Believe me, we need and welcome your suggestions !!!!!**

Til next time
Drive Carefully

