

MISSISSIPPI STREET ROD ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

January 1998

No. 131

Editor: Jack Brown PO Box 6600 Jackson MS 39282-6600
MSRA web site address. <http://www2.netdoor.com/~samhowel>

WRAPPING THINGS UP FOR 1997

Christmas came and went all too quick at our house. The crazy weather we've had in December was something, ranging from shirtsleeve weather to below freezing. Then there was that record 6 inch snow the day of the club Christmas party, the heaviest December snow in 68 years. Just over 30 folks braved the snow and went to the party anyway. I rode in three parades myself. We had fifteen rods in the Clinton parade. Bo Laird almost rode in the D'Lo parade. He was supposed to drive Ponder's Shelby Mustang carrying the Grand Marshall, who was none other than the Governor's wife, Pat Fordice. Bo got all excited about chauffeuring the Governor's wife, but she showed up at the parade with her own car and driver. Bo was all shot down. Then they offered to let him drive one of Ponder's old '65 Mustangs carrying the mayor of D'Lo. Ponder withdrew the car, leaving Bo the option of driving the Mayor in the town of D'Lo's only official vehicle, a '69 Chevy pickup. But at parade time the battery was dead so the truck wouldn't start. Bo just went on home muttering about how some days it just don't pay to get up. What's that they say about from penthouse to outhouse?

Our club's Christmas projects went well. Your generosity allowed us to make one family very happy. John and Shirley really worked hard on this, getting Ross Furniture, Miskelly Furniture, Lott Furniture and J.L. Jones Furniture to help, providing the family with a couple of rooms of new furniture. The kids had been literally sleeping on the floor, so the new beds really helped. Also, quite a bit of food and other items were given to the Harbor House. Thanks to all who helped with this.

MISSISSIPPI-LOUISIANA TELL IT LIKE WE SEE IT STREET ROD JOURNALISTS ASSN. UPDATE REPORT

Well, I got home from work the day before Christmas to find a brand new black Harley Davidson Road King motorcycle sitting on my carport. The packing papers contained a note from that generous humanitarian and Great American, Randy Wilson. According to the note, the motorcycle was a **gift** from him to me. I was overwhelmed. What a great guy and a wonderful journalist. Then I read the rest of the note. The motorcycle had apparently been purchased with Miss.-La Journalist Association funds, leaving the treasury floating in red ink. So I immediately called Larry Crain, the other member of the Southern Paparazzi to discuss the matter. Teleconferencing, I think they call it. Well, Larry had gotten a blue Harley Davidson Sportster 1200 that same day---a **gift** from Randy Wilson. So we decided we'd better appoint Randy Wilson Ambassador of Cultural Affairs before he spent some more money the Association doesn't have. I will be serving as President, vice president, secretary, and treasurer in an attempt to keep those two characters in line during 1998. Larry will serve as Interstate Affairs Attaché which means he will be running up and down I 55 going to rod runs. I understand that Kathy Wittge gave Larry a big button to wear which read "Southern Paparazzi". Me and Randy didn't get one so our feelings are hurt. And as far as the '98 convention is concerned, when Leon Gifford heard about how broke the Association was, he called and withdrew his offer to host the convention in his driveway in Crossett, Arkansas. So we're still open to offers for a convention site. Regardless of all this, the three of us **M.L.T.I.L.W.S.I.S.R.J.A.** members promise to do our best to keep some kind of foolishness going on in 1998 in every issue of our newsletters.

BITS & PIECES

Best wishes to NSRA rep Chicken Willie Smith's father who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Now we know where CW gets all his energy and drive.....**All clubs: Don't forget the annual planning meeting Saturday, January 10 in Jackson at the Western Sizzlin restaurant on I 55 North. An additional guest speaker has been added to the program. Bobby Derrick, Marketing Director for the new Lake Slip-A-Way drag strip, will be on hand to give us a preview of events scheduled for 1998 at the new drag strip/racing complex up in Lena. They have some exciting plans in the works for this huge new facility, including events to be covered by national TV, additional tracks to be constructed, hotels, restaurants and more. And they want to include street rod participation in all of it. You won't want to miss what he has to say, as well as joining in on discussions with your fellow rodders from all over the state. Bring along copies of your club rosters, list of officers and addresses of all club members to share with each other. If you need any additional information, call me at 372-8050.....**We received word from Bo Laird concerning the recipients of scholarship dollars courtesy of the Laird family. Shannon Key of Southaven (Mississippi Delta Street Rods) will attend Northwest Community College; A.J. Olier, Jr. of Biloxi (Singing River Street Rods) will attend Mississippi State University; and Heather Wilson (Dixie Street Rods) will attend Southwest Community College this year. We applaud Bo and his family for providing this fund to help these young folks further their education.....Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 14. This will be the date of the Dixie National Rodeo Parade. The parade starts at 9 a.m. with lineup on Jefferson Street in front of the fairgrounds. Make plans to come ride with us. We won't be going to Frames N Thangs shop after the parade this year. Lee and Bubba Nottingham are busy enlarging their Hazlehurst facility to accomodate some new machinery and much construction is going on there now. But Lee promises to have us down for a tour real soon.....After a week of cold rainy weather, Saturday came with sunshine and 70 degree temps. I rode around in my '38 all day. About three o'clock Round man called and mentioned the magic words, LET'S CRUISE. We got on the phone and in just a short time we had rounded up a willing group who planned to meet on I 55 and cruise to the Sonic in Byram. Ten rods and several people who didn't have their cars running drove in to the Sonic and had a fun time eating and visiting on a mild Saturday night, the first one of 1998. Nine week old Natalie Scurlock made her first ever cruise, which of course made her ol' grandpa proud.....Plans are under way for the 1998 NSRA Appreciation day to return to Hazlehurst on Saturday July 4. Mayor Kimble and the Chamber of Commerce staff have invited us once again and are looking forward to having an even bigger event this year.....For all you racing fans, I hear that the World of Outlaws sprint car series will be returning to Pike County Speedway--get this--**Friday the 13th** of March. Gotta see that one.

GARAGE SCENE

Jackie Sifford has the engine sitting in his model A frame with enough wiring to crank it up. A Vicky body is also on hand on the other side of the shop. Plans call for a black paint job with flames on a '32 grille shell.....Brian traded his pickup to Randy Wilson for a '71 Dodge project. Sure hated to see that one go.....Half Round found himself one fine '32 Ford coupe. It's yellow with a chopped top-one nice ride. It is good to see him back riding again.....I hear T-Tommy also has a new '32 Ford Vicky.....I got the go-kart running (only a week late for Christmas, Mowery) I'm putting the grandson through some serious training before we go to the racetrack. He's wilder than ten Jimmy Spencers. The first time up the driveway, I thought he was going to drive it right through my street rod. He stopped about a foot from rear-ending it. Now that it is running, I can get back to work on my street rods.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1998

JAN 10 Annual Street Rod Club Planning Session Jackson
JAN 10-11 Race Car Extravaganza, A & I Buildings, Fairgrounds in Jackson

- JAN 9-11 World Of Wheels. SuperDome. New Orleans, Louisiana
 JAN 16-18 World of Wheels. Shreveport, Louisiana
 JAN 23-25 6th Annual Winter Rod Run, Diamondhead Resort Inn, Diamondhead, Mississippi
- MAR 13-15 Parade of Rods 98, Mardi Gras Street Rods, Houma, Louisiana. Quality Inn
 MAR 22 Critter's Cruise II (tentative date)
- APRIL 4 Strawberry Classic Car Show #15 Hammond, Louisiana
 APRIL 10-12 Rollin Rods of East Texas Rod Run Kilgore, Texas
 APRIL 17-19 Super Chevy Sunday. Memphis Motorsports Park in Memphis, Tennessee
 APRIL 17-19 River City Rods/St. Jude Benefit Rod run Greenville, Mississippi
 APRIL 17-19 25th Sunny Beaches Rod Run Pensacola, Florida pre '49
 APRIL 24-26 Dixie Street Rods Rod Run Best Western Motel McComb, Miss. pre '49
- MAY 15-17 Covington Street Rods Spring Fling Covington, Louisiana
 MAY 22-24 Moonlighters Rod Run Minden, Louisiana
- JUNE 5-7 Muscle Shoals 27th Annual Run Tuscumbia, Alabama
 JUNE 19-21 20th Annual Dixie Run, Holiday Inn Southwest in Jackson pre '49
- JULY 4 Mississippi NSRA Appreciation Day. Lake Hazle Hazlehurst, Mississippi
 JULY 10-12 Fun Run '98 Klasy Kruzers Crossett, Arkansas pre '60
- SEPT 18-20 Singing River Rod Run Biloxi, Miss pre '69
 SEPT 25-27 Queen City Rock & Roll Rod run Meridian Mississippi
- OCT 8-11 3rd Annual Cruisin' the Coast. Mississippi Gulf Coast Beaches
- NOV 13-15 Ole Brook Cruisers 10th rod run Brookhaven, Mississippi pre '73

TUESDAY EATIN' MEETIN' DATES

- January 13 Punchy's on Raymond Road
 January 20 Scottie's Drive In on Terry Road
 January 27 Sonny's Bar-B-Q on Highway 80 West
 February 3 Jerry's Fish House in Florence

At the Christmas party, officers for 1998 were elected. They are as follows: President, Jimmy Creel . Vice President, John Trammel . Secretary, Jack Brown. Treasurer, Annette Sifford. Directors, Gene Purser, Jackie Sifford and Paul Zabaldano. There will be no club meeting in January. Prez Creel will set a club meeting date in February and it will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Til Next Time
 Drive Carefully

Jack