

MISSISSIPPI STREET ROD ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Jack Brown PO Box 799 Terry MS 39170-0799
MSRA web site address. <http://www2.netdoor.com/~samhowel>

LOOKING BACK ON 1998

The only thing better than going through a year of street rodding fun first-hand is looking back and remembering some of the things that happened. As I look back over 1998, several things stuck in my memory came back to mind. Our first ride with grandson Josh's go kart we built together. The tour to T-Tommy's new shop after the Dixie National parade. How obnoxious Ricky McGuffie's son is. The ceremony at the McComb rod run retiring Randy Wilson's old hat, and his awarding it to me. Chicken Willie's horseback ride at Wal-Mart. How obnoxious Ricky McGuffie's son is. Joe Thomas' fence removal and reinstallation. Another successful Dixie Run-our 20th How obnoxious Ricky McGuffie's son is. The NSRA day in Hazlehurst. Randy Wilson's competing in the International Ballet Competition. Our first street rod visit to the Neshoba County fair car show. How obnoxious Ricky McGuffie's son is. The week we spent getting the street rod of our friends from Arizona running again so they could complete their trip home. Riding down Route 66 in New Mexico. The D'LO Christmas parade. How obnoxious Ricky McGuffie's son is. I look forward to 1999 for another year of fun and memories, and maybe McGuffie's son will outgrow being obnoxious.

EDITORIAL

Don't get excited, I'm not going to fuss at anybody. I just wanted to say some personal things as we start the final year of the twentieth century. When I was much younger I'd wonder if I would live long enough to see the year 2000. Well in about 360 days or so, we'll know. In 1999 I will have my 60th birthday. I don't have to be reminded as I look in the mirror every morning and see what hair I have left turning gray. The aches and pains in the morning are a further reminder. But somehow my mind and heart are still thirty years or so behind. Every time I see a race car or a racing go-kart, I have thoughts of how much fun it would be to crawl in and buckle up, fire the thing off, and roll out on to a race track again. And those times of three straight 20 hour work days building a dune buggy in one weekend are only memories. Now I do good to work on my street rod two hours straight without losing my attention span or having to stop and rest a while. But I still want to. And I guess that's the important thing. Once we stop wanting to do something, interest is gone and it will never ever get done. So, do y'all --want to --play cars this year? Me and Critter do. We're planning to double our efforts this year and get after it. I even --want to--get to work on the Dodge pickup this year. As I write this, on the third day of the new year, I've worked a little on my coupe every day of 1999 so far. Cause I wanted to. It's one of those deals where the more you do, the more you enjoy; and the more you enjoy, the more you do. Remember this as you attend the cruises and rod runs this year. Whether you're attending someone's event or working your rear end off helping put one on; do it because you Want To and I think you'll find that the more you put into it, the more enjoyment you'll get out of it.

BITS & PIECES

Now I ain't gonna call any names, but I hear a certain Gulf Coast rodder has a flame thrower set up in his tailpipes that is spectacular and works **really well**. So well that he set his trailer on fire while playing with it.....Another tale is about a certain orange chopped top '47 Chevy running

through the wall of a shop recently. Brakes went out. And another rodder (a member of this very club) completely dismantled his **brand new** shifter three times trying to get it to work. Then someone told him all he had to do was push the button at the end of the lever and it worked fine. You guys hold 'em down now. The new season is just around the corner.....Club member Steve Loudermilk entered the hospital just before Christmas for lung surgery to remove what the doctors thought was cancer. But thankfully, our prayers were answered, and the mass turned out to be a concentrated infection, treatable with antibiotics. Steve is at home now and his wife, Gloria, who is an LPN, is getting him straightened out.....Scan over the 1999 calendar of events. Several new events have been added as dates become firm. The only state events we've not been able to nail down dates for are the River City event in Greenville, the Singing River event on the coast, and the NSRA day. We hear that the Hattiesburg based Real-Steel car club is planning to have events next year. Hopefully the complete schedule will be worked out when we have the annual planning meeting.....I see by the advertisement for the 1999 *Rod & Custom Magazine* Americruise that Jackson is the starting point for one of the legs of the cruise to Wisconsin. Apparently, July 20 at 8 a.m. tour #5A leaves Jackson, going to the first stop in Memphis, leaves Memphis the next day, July 21, and cruises to the second stop in St. Louis, then leaves there the next day, July 22, for the final leg of the trip to Madison, Wisconsin. No, I don't know where it leaves from in Jackson, or details of where it stops along the way. I guess details will be revealed later on. There is another tour leaving Tyler Texas July 20 which joins the Jackson tour in Memphis that night to continue the trip to St. Louis. Probably would be fun to do. If I hear any more, I'll let you know.....January's *Street Scene Magazine* has a page requesting each club send in their membership names and phone numbers for inclusion in the 1999 Fellow Pages book. I urge each club to send their list for inclusion in this valuable little book. Each NSRA member gets a copy free. If you do any cross-country traveling, you are just a phone call away from a street rodder who may be able to help you if you have trouble on the road in a strange town. Send your list now.....Speaking of *Street Scene*, this issue has coverage of the McComb rod run. Good job, Geoff.....Here is something I've been putting off talking about for several months. But I guess I'm going to have to bring it up. The price of postage stamps will be going up January 10. This newsletter is provided to all MSRA club members as part of their club membership dues; and to other clubs who swap newsletters with us. But we also share this newsletter with quite a few of you outside the MSRA membership just because you asked us to mail you one. Some of you are very faithful in sending a few dollars along to help cover the cost of postage and paper during the year. Any money you send is put right back into the purchase of stamps or paper. Please continue to help us with this expense. We take pride in this little paper, both as a news source as well as our personal attempt to make you smile occasionally. I don't want to have to go to the point of selling subscriptions to this thing. It's not worth that. But nothing is free any more. So if you've sent some \$ in the past few months, thanks so much. If not, please help us cover some of the expense of receiving this newsletter.

STATEWIDE STREET ROD PLANNING MEETING

One more Reminder--The annual planning meeting of Mississippi street rod clubs has been scheduled for Saturday, January 16, in Jackson. The meeting will be held at the same location as last year, the Western Sizzlin Restaurant on Interstate 55 North. Take exit 100 (Northside Drive) to the north frontage road and look for the Western Sizzlin on the right. The meeting will start at 10:30 and wind up about 2:30 or 3 that afternoon. Each person is asked to kick in \$1 for the coffee and room service. A lunch break will come at noon with each person responsible for their own meal. As usual, the meeting will contain an open period for each club to promote their events for the year. Open discussion on any subject relating to street rods will also be on the agenda, plus some other things we're working on. Our NSRA reps will also be on hand. Representatives from each Mississippi club are urged to attend. Out-of-state clubs are welcome to come also or send fliers and other information concerning rod runs in adjoining states. Bring club member lists, rod run fliers, and anything else you can share with other club reps attending. Several vendors and other guests have been invited. Last year, a majority of the clubs were

represented, and we hope to have 100% this year. If you have any questions concerning this meeting, call Sammie Howell at 922-9140 or me at 372-8050.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1999

- JAN 16 Statewide street rod planning meeting Jackson
JAN 22-24 7th Annual Winter Rod Run, Diamondhead, Ms
- FEB 13 Dixie National Rodeo Parade- Jackson
FEB 19-21 Calcasieu Street Rods 16th Annual Run. Holiday Inn. Sulphur, La pre-'75
- MAR 6 Open Cruise-In at Stan King Chevrolet dealership in Brookhaven, Mississippi
MAR 12-14 Mardi Gras Street Rods Parade of Rods. Quality Inn. Houma, La. pre-'49
- APR 2-4 Rollin Rods of East Texas 24th run Kilgore, Texas
APR 16-18 Camelia City Car Show Slidell, Louisiana
APR 16-18 Super Chevy Show- Memphis Motorsports Park Memphis, Tennessee
APR 16-18 Sunny Beaches Rod Run Rod Tiques in Pensacola, Florida
APR 23-25 17th Dixie Rodders Run McComb, MS pre-'49
APRIL 30-
MAY 2 25th NSRA Nats South, Chilhowee Park, Knoxville, Tenn.
- MAY 14-16 16th NSRA Mid-America Nats. Fairgrounds Springfield, Missouri
MAY 14-16 Spring Fling Covington, Louisiana
MAY 21-23 Moonlighters Rod Run Minden, Louisiana
- JUNE 11-13 Hot Rod Nationals Indianapolis Raceway Park, Indianapolis, Indiana
JUNE 18-20 Dixie Run 21 Holiday Inn Southwest Jackson, Mississippi
- JULY 9-11 16th NSRA Southwest Nats Fairgrounds Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
JULY 9-11 Goodguys Nationals Fairgrounds Columbus, Ohio
JULY 22-24 Catfish Run Sardis Lake, Mississippi
- AUGUST 5-8 30th NSRA Nationals Fairgrounds Louisville, Kentucky
- SEPT 17-19 Shelby County Street Rods rod run Memphis, Tennessee
SEPT 17-19 Hot Rod Power Tour Memphis Motorsports Park Memphis, Tennessee
SEPT 25 Rock-N-Roll Revival Queen City Rods & Classics, Highland Park, Meridian, MS
- OCT 1-3 Arkansas SRA rod run Lake DeGray, Arkansas
OCT 2-3 Goodguys Lone Star Nationals, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, Texas
OCT 7-10 Cruisin' the Coast '99 Mississippi Gulf Coast
OCT 15-17 12th NSRA Southeast Nats fairgrounds Tampa, Florida
OCT 22-24 Halloween Fun Run Street Rods LTD Tupelo, Mississippi
- NOV 5-7 Klassy Kruzers Fun Run 99, Crossett, Arkansas
NOV 12-14 Ole Brook Cruisers Rod Run. Best Western Motel. Brookhaven, Mississippi
NOV 26-28 Turkey Run West Fla. Street Rods. Pensacola, Florida

TUESDAY EATIN' MEETIN' DATES

- January 5 Jerry's Catfish House in Florence
January 12 Xan's Diner in Clinton
January 19 Scottie's Restaurant on Terry Road

January 26 Sonny's BBQ East in Brandon

WHAT ELSE'S BEEN GOING ON

We wound up the year riding in the Byram Christmas parade. It had been postponed from a week before due to the rain, but Critter insisted we go. As it turned out, Sammie and I were the only ones who showed up, but we had a good time. Critter had his best time of the year. While waiting for the parade to start, Critter made friends with the Byram Middle School cheerleaders. He was grinning and wagging his tail and enjoying all the attention. "Please, girls, don't stand on my fiberglass running boards. Critter, stop scratching the door." Oh what's the use. During the parade, critter was photographed countless times as he hung out the window grinning. Most of the kids ignored the car and accused Critter of being the Taco Bell dog from the TV ads. He didn't deny it, soaking up all the admiration. Even though only one of his ears will stand up all the way, some of the kids were calling to him in Spanish and he was loving it. When we passed the Taco Bell store along the parade route, he wanted to go inside and make a personal appearance. He started demanding he be called El Critter. I had just about got him settled down from all this ego trip when he received two Christmas cars addressed to him. Now he wants his own mail box.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

There will be a board of directors meeting in January to organize MSRA for the coming year. There will be a club meeting in February and the date will be announced in next month's newsletter.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Les Rude decided to add to his animal collection and bought himself a prize bull for Christmas. And a couple of cows to go along with it. Envisioning a whole herd in the future, he was disappointed when the bull ignored the cows completely. He loaded the bull in his '32 and went to a veterinarian to get the bull checked out. "Try this pill once a day and see how it goes", was the vet's advice. Les gave the bull a pill. Next morning, Les woke up to all kinds of racket. Bubba and Grady were hiding under the bed, the dogs were barking, the yard was a flurry of activity. The bull chased down both of Les' cows, broke through the fence and got after all the neighbor's cows on Landon Road. That night when Shawn got home, she asked Les, "Wonder what in the world was in those pills?" Les said, "I don't know, but they taste kinda like peppermint."

Til Next Time
Drive Carefully

Jack