

Doin' What We do Best: Eatin' Laughin' and Playin' Cars/

Mississippi Street Rod Association

NEWSLETTER

MSRA WEBSITE: <http://www.ms-sra.org/>

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Number 2

Personal note.

I hope you enjoyed last month's newsletter, which was my first in quite a while. I'm enjoying writing the thing again. And I guess quite honestly I missed doing it. So, here goes number two. Have fun reading it in the spirit of the fun I had writing it - especially the next section.

BITS & PIECES

Well let's see now. What's been going on since last month?.....Eric's boss let him off a couple of days to work on his new street rod.....Jim and Nancy took off for Virginia and visited some of their old street rod buddies up there.....Lots of season end shows going on and MSRA was in the middle of many of them. The first weekend of November had 3 shows in the area, two of them actually in Byram on the same day. Another show in Rankin county to benefit McLaurin school baseball was attended by Cooney Grossi, Dee Dukes, Don Wade, George Philips and Joe Laird. From what I heard, Cooney took over the announcing duties from some little kid, at least for a while until the kid got tired of him and booted him off the mike. Oh well. Back in Byram, Paul Westwood, Al Mashburn, John Bolden and I went to the first annual show put on at the Crossroads church. They had about 50 cars and would have had more if not competing with another show at a local physical rehab center down the street. Our bunch was joined by several members of the 1 Rule Street Rod Club from Vicksburg. We just kicked back under the tent and visited, until Westwood decided he needed to go participate in some of the activities. They had a number of those inflated kids games for climbing, bouncing, jumping and crawling on. All things Westwood has no business whatsoever doing, ya unnerstand. But he especially liked the big inflatable tunnel they had for the "kids" to crawl thru. We begged him not to go into that thing as did several of the kids around it. He finally beat up a couple of the little protesting brats and went on into it any way. After an hour or so he'd not come out, so we figured he was stuck somewhere in the thing. We sent in one of the little kids he had just beat up to find him. Cost us \$5 to get the little monster to do the search and rescue. He came back and told us "the big man was about half way through the tunnel taking a nap." Can't take y'all anywhere! About 3 o'clock they began to give out the awards and right on cue, Westwood showed up (looking well rested, by the way) to get his award for "best interior" for his Studebaker. Bolden and I also won a plaque for our street rods. We took down

the tent while Westwood was still arguing with the smart aleck kid who ratted on him in the tunnel. Then next, Westwood's award winning car would not start. He had left all the doors open all day with those fancy little chrome rods that hold the doors in open so that all can marvel at the award winning interior of his Studebaker. But all the dome lights had stayed lit all day and this ran the battery down. Nobody had any jumper cables. Some poor spectator wandered by and offered to jump him off. Westwood convinced everyone that first he had to disconnect the alternator wire and that required a 9/32 wrench. Apparently, nobody carries such a wrench but me, and it took me 20 minutes of scrambling around in the depths of my tool box to find this rare tool. The rest of the MSRA cars and 1 Rule cars left (sneaked off would be a better description). But me and the lone ranger stayed until we got the Studebaker to fire off. Then I left myself before it had a chance to go dead again. Do I smell an award at the Christmas party?.....The next weekend we were off to the Crossett, Arkansas Rod Run. MSRA had a good representation there with, Jimmy Creel, Carey Creel, George Phillips, Don Wade, Jim Saville, Al Mashburn, Bennie Boggs, and me making the trip in their street rods. Friday morning started off with rain showers but we ran out of them just across the Miss. River bridge and the rest of the weekend was PERFECT rod run weather. I missed last year's run and it was wonderful to go back and visit with so many street rod friends there. It did get rather chilly on Saturday night after all the activities had concluded. I walked outside to lock my car and found Al and Terra trying to fold up Al's tent to put it in the carrying bag. Now, why they decided to do this at 10 o'clock at night, in the dark, with the temperature about 14 degrees below zero, using a broken flashlight, escapes me. But Ol' dumb me offered to help. Turns out Terra had somehow broken the brand new flashlight lantern into three pieces. I held the battery with one hand and grounded it with the other hand, while shining the broken lens in the general direction of the tent bag. Ran out of hands, was holding it with both knees. When Al said he still could not see, my sympathy for his situation decreased dramatically. I told him if he'd just wait a few hours it would be daylight, not to mention 50 degrees warmer and they might get the stupid thing to fit. I've got to work on my attitude.....While we were at Crossett, John Bolden took his Chevy to Panama City, Florida for the Emerald Coast rod run. He brought a bunch of pictures to the last club meeting (I did not get to see them, bring 'em to the parade, please John) and reports that this was a very nice, well run event.....Several of us were on the way home from the Crossett rod run and missed the club's participation in the cruise to the VA Hospital Sunday afternoon. Steve tells me there were a good number of patients who were able to come out to look at the cars. Several clubs, including MSRA , the Corvette club and Classic Cruisers participated in this annual cruise.

BYRAM CHRISTMAS PARADE

In last month's newsletter I reported the wrong date for the Byram Christmas parade. It will be on Saturday, December 6 at 10 a.m. In case of bad weather, rain date is the next day, Sunday, at 2 p.m. MSRA is entered in the parade and we invite all of you to bring your street rods to ride in this annual kickoff to the Christmas season. The parade lineup begins at 8:30 a.m. on Byram Parkway, the same place as last year. Byram Parkway runs south off Siwell Road between KFC and Auto Zone. But unless you get there very early they probably will not let you enter there. So go south down Terry Road about .8 of a mile, turn right and enter the back entrance of Byram Parkway from there. We'll probably be lined up somewhere near the Clubhouse fitness center. So far as I know it is OK to throw candy. Like

last year, admission is a toy for the kids at Blair Batson Children's hospital. Most of the kids there at Blair Batson are quite young, so a stuffed animal of some type should do just fine. So come join us at this event and help us have at least as many rods as we had last year, which was 8 or 9 as best as I can remember. It's a fairly short parade so you shouldn't have any overheating problems.

STATE WIDE CAR CLUB PLANNING MEETING

The annual statewide car club planning meeting will be held at 10:30 on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant on Lake Harbor Drive on the north side of Jackson (Ridgeland). This is at the same location as last year. Last year's event had a record crowd with over 150 people representing over 30 clubs and events around the state. All attendees will be introduced and given a few minutes to announce details of their respective event date in 2009. All clubs are encouraged to bring flyers for their 2009 shows. Any other particular problems facing us as car clubs will be discussed also. A calendar of events for 2009 will be constructed and the resulting schedule will be made available on the internet. After lunch in the restaurant, announcement of 2009 Mississippi Street Rodder of the Year and 2009 inductees in to the Street Rod Hall of Fame will be made. All car clubs and event organizers in the state are encouraged to send representatives to this meeting. If you have any questions call me at 601 937-1928.

DIXIE RUN 31

Dixie Run 31 will be held March 13-15 at the Sleep Inn motel corner of Lakeland Drive (hwy 25) and Airport Road (hwy 475). It will be a 3-day rod run, for pre-49 street rods only, and will be run much like it was done several years ago. We are inviting street rods from all over the south to come join us to make this a fun time of visiting with all our street rod friends. Entries have already been received from Louisiana, Florida, Arkansas and Mississippi, and early indications are that a number of our street rod friends are planning to join us for this reunion. Grand prize will be a 350 engine. There will be games, vendors, a swap meet, and a tea for the ladies Saturday afternoon. A Friday night bar-b-q supper for all entries will be served for early arrivals. Saturday night entertainment plans are being put together now and we'll let you in on those soon as details are completed. Entry fee is being held to \$20 for everyone, but if you pre-register, there will be a drawing from among those for a nice prize. For a flyer or other information, go to the MSRA website: www.ms-sra.org

2008 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DEC 6	Madison Christmas Parade all classic cars welcome
DEC 6	Byram Christmas Parade MSRA rods 10 a.m.
DEC 14	MSRA Christmas party 1 p.m. at Raymond Lake Lodge
	2009 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (so far)
JAN 3-4	Race car extravaganza Fairgrounds Trade Mart, Jackson wsbissel@aol.com
JAN 10	Annual statewide car club planning meeting at Western Sizzlin Restaurant on Lake Harbor Drive 10:30 til 3 info 601/372-8050
JAN 23-25	Winter Rod Run Diamondhead, MS
JAN 23-25	World of Wheels at La Superdome, New Orleans info 985/646-2250
FEB 6-8	Ramblin Oldies Rod Run Baton Rouge, LA 225/275-9868

MAR 7	Ole Brook Cruise In, old train depot Brookhaven, MS 601/833-8620
MAR 13-15	MSRA Dixie Run 31 Jackson (Flowood), MS details at ms-sra.org
MAR 21	6th ANNUAL Troop 98 show & shine car show . Springridge UMC in Byram MS to benefit boy scouts. Open to all cars & trucks info Joe @ 371-2282
MAR 20-22	Singing River Rod Run, LaFont Inn Pascagoula, MS 228/596-5158
MAR 27-28	Big River Classics 55-57 Chevy show Vicksburg, MS 601/939-8265
MAR 27-29	Hot Rod Weekend at Gulfport Dragway Gulfport, MS info: 228/863-4408
APR 10-11	VCCC Red Carpet Classic, Blackburn Motor Co. Vicksburg, MS 601/636-8962
APR 10-11	Red River Rod Run Shreveport, LA Red River Street Rods 318/949-9117
APR 18	Hillcrest car show Hillcrest church, Byram, MS jsdholden@bellsouth.net
APR 17-19	Bunny Run Jackson, TN www.jacksonrodandcustom.com
APR 30- MAY 3	4th Annual Blue Suede Cruise Bancorp South Center, Tupelo, MS info: 800/533-0611 or www.bluesc.com
MAY 9	Show at the O open car show at O'Reilly's in Clinton
MAY 16	Crooked Creek Car Fest, Pelahatchie, MS
MAY 23	Shake Rattle & Roll car show, MCC, Madison MS 601/259-5248
MAY 29-31	Dixie Rodders car show, Best Western motel, Meridian, MS info601/917-7272
MAY 30	Cruise into Summer car show, Smith Co. Cruisers, Raleigh, MS
JUN 21	Cars at the Zoo Jackson Zoological Park event details TBA
SEP 26	Heritage Festival car show Raleigh, MS 601/4057685
OCT 4-11	Cruisin The Coast Mississippi Gulf coast www.cruisinthecoast.com
OCT 16-17	6th Scarecrow Cruise, Madison, MS; MS Classic Cruisers info: 601 259-5248
OCT 23-25	Halloween Fun Run Summit Inn, Tupelo, MS
NOV 6-8	Klassy Kruzers Fun Run, Crossett, AR 870 364/6662
DEC 5	Madison, MS Christmas Parade info 601 573-5873

Club Christmas party

This will be held December 14 at the Raymond Lake lodge at Raymond Lake south of Jackson on hwy 18. Try to be there by 1 and we will begin eating at 1:30. The club will provide meat, rolls, and some tea. We could probably use some volunteers with the tea and soft drinks, too. Check in with Jim and Nancy. Please bring your favorite side dishes and desserts to round out the menu. There will be a gift swap, so bring a gift marked suitable for male or female with a \$20 limit. Once you draw a gift, someone can claim your gift and you can then claim someone else's. Sound confusing? It's meant to be. Myself, I usually go outside to avoid permanent injury while all this goes on. This swap can occur only once, thank goodness. A reminder that WWE rules will apply, no use of weapons or foreign objects, or hitting each other with chairs. One thing I'd like to start doing again is having some special awards for certain people. If

someone did something during the year for which an award should be presented, by all means give it to him or her! I'm working on a few myself. No, Bennie and I will NOT sing this year.

Next club meeting

Next meeting is Thursday, Dec 11 at Golden Corral restaurant on Lakeland Drive. Eat at 6, meeting to follow at 7. Please come. I'd promised you in last month's newsletter that we were going to have the fun meter pegged at the upcoming club meetings. Well, it seems that with the rod run coming up in March, three months earlier than we'd all been used to, the next few club meetings have to necessarily become a little more related to the business of nailing down details for Dixie Run 31. In other words, just bear with us. Work before play: a long way to go and a short time to get there. It ain't all fun and games, as there is always a lot of planning involved in putting on a successful rod run. But as soon as we get all the details ironed out for Dixie Run in March, Jim promises me we're going to do a variety of things with our street rods the rest of this year. Cruises, cookouts, shop tour, and several other things have been discussed by your board of directors as possible activities for the coming year. And we're open to suggestions, too. So come help us work on the business of planning this rod run, then, I promise you, we're going to be doing some fun things down the road.

Merry Christmas

Your officers and directors of MSRA wish you all a very happy holiday season. Our wish is for your good health and safety during this period and our hope that coming weeks will be filled with the joys of the true Christmas spirit at your house. God bless us all in 2009.

Till next time, drive carefully

Jack