

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

Mississippi Street Rod Association

P.O Box 1823 Brandon, Ms 39043

NEWSLETTER

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BITS & PIECES

Mark your calendar for a day full of street rod fun on Saturday, **February 13**. The MSRA and any other area street rods are invited to ride in the Dixie National Rodeo parade in Jackson at 9 a.m. Parade lines up as usual on Jefferson Street in front of the fairgrounds. Take the Pearl Street exit off I-55 and proceed to Jefferson Street. The parade lasts about an hour. Immediately after the parade, we'll all gather up back on Jefferson Street and head in a caravan out I-20 to Pelahatchie where NSRA rep. Chicken Willie, the MSRA, and the Mid State Rodders will host the 2010 Mississippi NSRA Appreciation Day and Inspection day. The event will be held in downtown Pelahatchie at the Muscadine Park on Highway 80. You can't miss it. We'll plan to caravan from the parade to Pelahatchie. But if you can't make it to the parade, come on over to Pelahatchie. Take Pelahatchie exit 68 off I-20, go to the 4-way stop, turn right (east) on US 80 and proceed about half a mile to the park on the right. There will be hamburgers, dash plaques, NSRA inspections and an afternoon of fellowship with all your street rod friends from central Mississippi. All street rodders are invited to come, ride in the parade and then attend the NSRA program afterwards.

I went to the first rod run of 2010 down on the coast at Diamondhead January 22-24. I stayed Friday and Saturday til the weather started to go south, but had a great time while there. We won some good prizes playing bingo, along with some cash and other prizes from the money tree. They had about 170 or so cars, many of which were new ones. One new rat rod with a front cap from a Caterpillar tractor was an eye catcher. And there was a little red 67 Nova station wagon that was as nice as I've seen. We got to visit with all our friends from the coast. Of course I had to run over to Biloxi to the Blow Fly Inn for my favorite shrimp po-boy sandwich before I came back home. I never get enough of that place and its food, and the madness along the coast associated with Mardi Gras and the New Orleans Saints football success was quite evident every where we went. It was a fun weekend.

A note from the gang with the Klassy Kruzers Fun Run in Crossett, Arkansas tells us that their show is planned as scheduled for November 5-7. The motel has changed names, but it will be able to take your reservations starting February 15. MSRA usually turns out for this show and we won club participation up there last year. It's just a short 160 mile trip to one of the best rod runs around.

While at Diamondhead last week, the new American Street Rod Association was much in evidence, with a membership drive and the announcement of its first event. Since NSRA has opened its shows to later model cars, street rods (by definition 1948 and older modified cars) have lost our national organization. This new group again offers that to its membership. For more information on the new association, look at theASRA.com on the net. There will be more on this later.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

MSRA kicked off the year by participating in the World of Show & Go/Race Car Extravaganza the first weekend of January at the Fairgrounds Trade Mart. The entire building was used this year, filled with every kind of rod, custom, and race car imaginable. The fourteen MSRA street rods in our display really looked good, parked in two rows just inside the main entrance. It was the best effort yet by our club at this annual show. Several cars made their debut at the show. Both Eric and Gary brought their "under construction" new cars, giving spectators an idea of the large amount of detailed work involved in completing a street rod. It was my first time to see Gary's '30 Chevy coupe, and the work done so far was outstanding. Eric put his lawn chair inside his topless '39 and waved at the crowd. My new '32 roadster and John Pepper's new '23 T also made their first appearances at this show. John's '46 Chevy, Jim's '38 Chevy, Jimmy and Carey Creel's '36 Plymouth and '40 Chevy, Paul Westwood's '34 Studebaker, Fred Lytle's '37 flatback Chevy, Eddie's '34 Ford, Wayne's '34 Ford, Al's '40 Chevy, and Don Traweek's '39 Ford coupe completed the 14 MSRA rods on display. Several of the cars won individual trophies. The show had a record 167 entries this year and crowds were good both days. Thanks to promoter Bill Bissell for producing this fine show. I had a great time.

Several MSRA members attended the annual statewide car club planning meeting January 9 in Ridgeland. Eighty five people, representing 22 car clubs and 9 vendors, came to the meeting, where everyone got to plug their 2010 events and pass out flyers. After the morning session where events were reviewed, we enjoyed lunch by Coolwater Catering. After lunch, NSRA state rep Chicken Willie announced that Mike Montgomery of Pontotoc, a long time member of the Tupelo based Street Rods Limited club, was voted Street Rodder of the Year. Also, two rodders were inducted into the Mississippi Street Rod hall of Fame. Long time street rodder and rod builder, Tommy Boren of Horn Lake, along with the late Harold "Duck" Young from Pascagoula were the two 2009 inductees. Duck's daughter, Karla, accepted the award for her late father.

At this recent planning meeting a number of new events were added to the 2010 schedule. We tried to get them all listed on the calendar below. On some, details were not yet available enough to quote, but the event was listed any way. We will try to get those details and add them to the schedule. There are also several events being planned for later in the year with details not firm enough to place on the schedule yet. These will be added too, as soon as the details are given to me.

2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
FEB 5-7	32 ND Ramblin Oldies Rod Run. Pre'49 street rods Baton Rouge, LA info: Bobbyspann@aol.com
FEB 5-6	Southern Connection Motorsports Expo Tupelo, MS info:662-369-8108
FEB 13	Dixie National Rodeo Parade MSRA invited to participate starts 9 a.m.
FEB 13	Miss. NSRA Appreciation Day. Pelahatchie, MS Right after the parade
MAR 6	Goin' to Town car show at RR station Brookhaven, MS 601-833-8620
MAR 12-14	32 nd Dixie Run Jackson (Flowood) pre-49 street rod run at Sleep Inn, corner Airport Road and Lakeland Drive 601-937-1928
MAR 13	Trail of Honor Poker Run Jackson,MS info: www.trailofhonor.com
MAR 20	7th annual Troop 98 Show & Shine car & truck show at Springridge UMC in Byram, MS info: 601-937-1928
MAR 19-21	Singing River rod run Pascagoula, MS LaFont Inn pre '85 info:228-209-7101
MAR 26-27	11 th annual Big River Classics 55-57 Chevrolet show & shine Vicksburg, MS

	info 601 856-6607
MAR 27	Gnat nationals Bay St. Louis, MS at old RR depot info: 228-216-1259
APR 3	Pine Hill Festival car show Wiggins, MS info:601-528-1172
APR 3	Antique & classic car show Aberdeen, MS courthouse info: 662 369-8576
APR 3	Spring car show Sardis, MS info: 662-429-7265
APR 9-10	37 th Red River Rod Run Bossier City, LA 318-470-5669
APR 9-10	Mustang & All Ford Show at Gray-Daniels Ford in Brandon. info: 601918-0388 or glenn@mcgowanwp.com
APR 10	Indoor car show Montgomery Co. Coliseum Winona, MS 662-653-6812
APR 17	Red Carpet Classic car show VCCC Vicksburg, MS info: 601415-0421
APR 17	32 nd Railroad Fest car show Amory, MS info:662-256-9320
APR 17	Rumblin' in Ridgeland car, truck & motorcycle show. Holmes Community College campus in Ridgeland Info: 601-919-0291
APR 17	Camelia City rod run. Slidell, LA. open show info:985 639-9919
APR 16-18	18 th Bunny Run Jackson, TN fairgrounds pre-'73 info:731-427-1677
APR 19-22	Redneck Power Tour 2010 info: Fuzzee 601-575-8218
APR 24	3 rd annual vehicle extravaganza, car, truck, and motorcycle show @ Hillcrest Baptist Church 5950 Terry Rd in Byram, MS info: 601-372-0132
APR 29- MAY 2	Blue Suede Cruise, Tupelo MS Info: bluesc.com
MAY 1	2 nd annual Swinging Bridge Festival car show Byram, MS info: 601-373-3933
MAY 1	Pinelake Christian School car show Brandon, MS info: 601 941-2600
MAY 8	Hot Rod Saturday, Gulfport VA Hospital 228-596-0664
MAY 8	Show at the O at O'Reilley's auto parts in Clinton, MS 601 856-6607
MAY 15	Crooked Creek car fest, Mid State Rods, Pelahatchie Park, MS 601 354-4735
MAY 15	MS Coast Bug Jam & Drags Gulfport Dragway info: 228 596-0664
MAY 21-23	Dixie Rodders 9 th annual car show Meridian, MS info: 601-938-3060
MAY 22	7th annual car jamboree Delta Classic auto club Boyle, MS 662 719-0067
MAY 29	Shake Rattle & Roll car show, Ridgecrest Church, Madison, MS 601 260-9138
JUN 5	Walthall Co, Dairy Fest car show Holmes Water Park, Tylertown, MS info: 601 684-2609
JUN 12	Blueberry Festival car show Poplarville, MS 601 799-1932
JUN 20	Jackson Zoo car, truck & motorcycle show Info: GJohnson@jacksonzoo.org
JUN 25-27	First ASRA street rod reunion Diamondhead Resort, MS pre-'49 street rods only info: 228 546-0664
JUL 17	Nostalgia Drags Gulfport Dragway info 228-546-0664
JUL 17	3 rd annual Cruise into Summer car, truck & motorcycle show at Old Rice Road Baptist Church Madison. MS info: 601 853-7500
JUL 23-25	Catfish Run Sardis Lake, MS pre-'49 street rods only info: 662 429-7265
AUG 5-8	NSRA Street Rod nationals Louisville KY
AUG 7	Watermelon Carnival car show Water Valley, MS
AUG 12-14	Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruise Hiawassee, GA 662 587-9572
AUG 28	19 th Cruisin' the River Columbus, MS east bank lock & dam 662 494-6086
SEP 4	Car Show West Point, MS

SEP 3-5	Parade of Rods, MG SRA pre-'49 street rods Houma, LA 985 532-2777
SEP 11	Open car show Grenada, MS
SEP 18	Rock & Roll Revival, Queen City Rods at Collinsville drag strip, Meridian, MS
SEP 25	14th annual Heritage Festival car Show Raleigh, MS 601-405-7685
OCT 3-10	14 th Cruisin' the Coast MS Gulf Coast 888-808-1188
OCT 6-17	AVCM antique car show, Miss. State Fair
OCT 22-23	Scarecrow Cruise & car show Madison, MS info 601-259-5248
NOV 5-7	Fun Run Crossett, AR pre '67 models
NOV 8-13	Emerald Coast Cruz-in Panama City FL beach 662 587-9572

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Please plan to attend the next couple of club meetings as we continue to make plans for Dixie Run 32. Entries continue to roll in weekly. So far, entries from six states have been received, including four from Illinois. We need to push the sponsor trophies, gather some door prizes and also goodie bag items. The time is near so please get busy. From the response I got at Diamondhead last weekend, we may have a big crowd. I put out flyers at the registration table three different times, and every time they all were picked up. Al will handle registration, Jimmy is in charge of games, Vic is cooking that great BBQ again. We have the top ten trophies under construction. If you want to make some sort of specialty trophy, feel free to do it. We need volunteers to handle the wipe-out board and the 50/50 tickets. Robert Day is on board for his magic show again, the ladies tea will again be held on Saturday afternoon, and better weather has been ordered for this year. So plan to be at the next club meeting, **Thursday, February 11 at Shoney's in Pearl**. It's close to Valentine's day, so bring your honey along and enjoy the buffet. We eat about 6 and the meeting will follow.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Some of us are planning to go to the Baton Rouge rod run next weekend. John, Jim and I are planning to go. If you'd like to join us, let Jim know. This is one of the few pre '49 street rod runs left, and is not only one of the oldest, but one of the best rod runs in the south. And don't forget the Rodeo Parade followed by the NSRA day over in Pelahatchie on Feb 13.

Looking ahead into March, we thought we'd try something again that went over well last year. Saturday, March 6 is the date of the car show in Brookhaven. Last year, we organized a cruise to Ole Brook that turned out rather well. We invited all the local clubs to ride with the MSRA rods from Byram to Brookhaven. As it turned out around 30 cars from several area clubs met in the parking lot of McDonald's in Byram about 8 a.m. and pulled out in a beautiful caravan of classic cars heading down Interstate 55. It looked great and we invite all of you to join us again this year. Invite all your friends and maybe we can set a new record in the number of cars participating in this fun ride to Brookhaven.

EDITORIAL

If you are NOT a street rod owner, don't bother reading this because you probably won't understand me, or even care about my take on this situation. It is an EDITORIAL, my personal feelings alone, sent to all the "family" of street rodders out there who read this and, I think, share the feeling.

I haven't done an editorial in a while, but some changes have happened in my favorite hobby, street rodding, that affect it in a number of ways. I've sat back and listened to all angles about the change from many people, so far keeping my thoughts to myself. But I feel strongly enough to get on my soap box and preach on.

The National Street Rod Association has opened its membership to vehicles 30 years and older. By its own NSRA definition, street rods are 1948 and older vehicles modified and updated with later model components with the goal of making them more comfortable and DRIVEABLE. To me, all this makes the street rod unique among all the other branches of the car hobby. Creativity, engineering ingenuity, and drivability are the hallmark of this hobby. Other than being 1948 and older, there are no guidelines, limits, or specifications on these cars and trucks. Not to take anything away from any of the other branches of the car hobby. They are all unique and special in their own way.

But we want the basic integrity of our hobby left alone, and to have our own national organization (I've been a member of it since 1982) literally pull the plug on this is just simply unacceptable to most street rodders. To me, it's obvious that this was largely a business decision by the handful of private owners of NSRA in Memphis, fueled by the businesses that support the hobby. But their claim that "it was what the membership wanted" iswell.....miles from reality. So, you can, like some folks I've talked to, tear up your membership card and mail it to Memphis, but that is a waste of a good stamp. You can sit around and fuss with your street rod friends about the situation, also a waste of time, since they probably feel just like you do. The situation is not going to change. Fact is, we no longer have a "National STREET ROD" Association. We as members have apparently been sold out by the desire for financial profit.

I don't propose to bash NSRA any further. I have a number of good friends who are officials of the organization. So, what do we do now? As I see it, we can do several things. We can continue to support the four street rod only events left in Mississippi and the two in Louisiana. Or you can join the new American Street Rod Association being formed by the group in Gulfport. Or, most importantly, we can continue to bond together with our street rod family who are still so special to us and keep on "doin what we do best" like the banner line of this newsletter says.

I've been driving street rods for twenty eight wonderful years. The friends, and.. ***I do mean FRIENDS***.. I've made in this family of street rodders all over the country are one of the most special and meaningful parts of this wonderful hobby. We know each other's cars, each other's wives, kids, dogs, cats, shop location, what they like to eat! We've traveled together. We've laughed with each other, cried with each other, helped each other find a part or fix a breakdown on the side of the road. It's one Big Ole extended family, unlike anything I've ever been involved with. We may not have a National Organization any more, but we've got something a lot better! This wonderful common bond and interest in street rods ties us together like no other group. So quit fussin' and get your street rod on the road and go have some fun with it.

And a parting thought:

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap

Till next time, drive carefully

Jack