

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

Mississippi Street Rod Association

NEWSLETTER

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BITS & PIECES

Note that cruise-ins are already beginning to start in our area. On the first Saturday afternoon of February there will be one at Jo's Diner on 1149 Old Fannin Road just south of Spillway road near the reservoir. This is a great little 50's eatery with wonderful milk shakes and burgers. The fun will last from 3 to 6 p.m. hosted by T.J. & Holley's Rod Shop and the Mid-state Rodders. There's also a Mexican restaurant in the other end the strip mall there. This cruise-in will go on the first Saturday of each month all year. In April the start time will go to 5 p.m. Then on Saturday, February 14, the Mississippi Classic Cruisers host a cruise-in at Bumper's Drive In on Lake Harbour Road from 2 til 4. Lots of 50's music and the usual things that the MCC bunch does at the other cruises they will host during the year. So dust off your car and come on out. All these early year events are, of course, weather permitting.

The first club event of the year comes up Saturday, February 7 as we do our annual ride in the Dixie National Rodeo Parade. MSRA has been riding in this parade ever since I got my street rod so it's been over 25 years. In fact, the first time my car was in the rodeo parade Paul Acey drove it. I had to go to a wedding that day, and Paul's truck was down, so he asked if he could drive my 38 in its first parade. I had only had the car for 2 days and had barely driven it myself, other than the drive home from Tupelo where I bought it. As I recall, he kept the car the whole day and I was beginning to wonder if he'd run off with it. Remember that, Paul?

The parade lineup starts at 8 a.m. on Jefferson Street in front of the fairgrounds. Not sure what our exact lineup position is right now, but they will send us that info later this week. All I know is we will definitely be ahead of the horses. So if you want to know what lineup spot we are in, call me or Jim on Thursday, we should know by then. Parade start time is 9, so show up in time to leave at 9a.m. So far, I have ten promises to be there and another ten of those "maybe, might, probably, hope to" type responses to the invite to ride. To make a day of it, I suggest we all go somewhere after the parade to have lunch, then go to the Jo's Diner cruise-in at 3 that afternoon for an entire day of fun with the street rods.. If anyone else has any suggestions of something else to do to fill out the day, we're always open to them.

The Ramblin Oldies rod run is going on that same weekend in Baton Rouge. I'd planned to go there myself until I found out the parade conflicted so I'll have to stay here and support MSRA. Also in February on the 21st there is an open house and car show at Street Dreams speed shop in Saucier, MS. Call 228-328-2112 if you're interested in details on that one. In March, things really get kicked off with something EVERY WEEK

END. Some weekends you even have a choice of things to do and places to go. Check out the schedule below and go have some fun with your street rod.

We were asked by the Rod-Tiques of Pensacola to mention that their Sunny Beaches rod run will again be a pre-'49 affair to be held on April 17-19 at the Comfort Inn on Fort Pickens Road on Pensacola Beach . This is the place it had been held a few years ago. They have obtained a nice room rate of \$69.99 at the host motel. There will be a grand prize, plus three 350 Chevy transmissions given away. For details call Ed Kidd at 1 850-429-0738 or check out their website www.PensacolaRod-Tiques.com.

NEWSLETTER QUIZ

Ok I've been writing this letter for four months now and I'm still not really completely sure if everyone who needs to read it is actually reading it. No No No it's not that this is some great literary masterpiece that everyone should make a must read, but it IS, after all, the main source of communication of club information to our members and friends. The first month I got some nice positive feedback from several who read it. Thank you.

But I also heard from some who had not even bothered to read their e-mailed copy and didn't even know it was being put out there. And there was one, guess who, who said he didn't look at anything that didn't have pictures. Another told me he liked to read it, but every time he sat down at his computer screen, he went to sleep. Now that one I can't do anything about. Others refuse to move into the 21st century and read anything off a computer. I don't have a real problem with that, so for those four, I do still go to the trouble and expense to mail them a printed copy. But I don't ever want to go back to the trouble and expense of hand printing, assembling and mailing 75 copies of this thing like I did four years ago.

I do this as part of keeping with my original commitment to inform and maybe entertain MSRA members, plus the fact that I'm such a good guy, not to mention that I enjoy doing it. So I sit here again this month banging away on my keyboard, wondering if all MSRA members and other folks who bother to go to the MSRA website are looking at this thing. Please make sure your e-mail address is up to date and I have it on file. If you run across someone who you know is not getting the word, let me or them know that we'd try to do whatever we can to make sure all MSRA members stay informed. And I promise not to mention this again.

DIXIE RUN 31

Entries have already come in from Louisiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, Florida, and Illinois plus from all over Mississippi. Looks like we'll have a good crowd of street rods this year. Bennie tells me that he and Vic have stocked up on some good old beef that will become some mighty fine BBQ on Friday night. Please push those sponsor trophies. The current economy seems to have slowed many of our former sponsors and the plaques are a little bit harder to sell this year. But keep trying. We can always use door prizes and more goodie bag items. We will pack the goodie bags at Bennie's house (that's where the club trailer is parked) on Sunday afternoon, March 8. We still need help with some of the activities. The sign-up sheet for duties at the rod run will be available at both February club meetings, so find a blank and put your name on it to help with that activity.

2009 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
FEB 6-8	Ramblin Oldies Rod Run Baton Rouge, LA 225/275-9868
FEB 6-8	World Of Wheels Birmingham, AL
FEB 7	Dixie National Rodeo Parade Jackson MS 9 a.m.

FEB 21	Car show at Street Dreams speed shop, Saucier, MS info 228-328-2112
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 pre '49
MAR 14	Open car show Poplarville, MS
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 28	Magnolia Cruisers show Laurel, MS
APR 4	Car show 10 til 2 at Home Depot in Madison
APR 4	Camellia Classic car show Mobile, AL
APR 4	Boulevard Cruisers Picayune, MS
APR 10-11	VCCC Red Carpet Classic, Blackburn Motor Co. Vicksburg, MS 601/636-8962
APR 10-11	2 nd Central MS Mustang Show Gray-Daniels Ford 601/259-8413
APR 10-11	Red River Rod Run Shreveport, LA Red River Street Rods 318/949-9117
APR 11	Gnat Nationals at old depot Bay St. Louis, MS
APR 11	Crossroads Cruisers Winona. MS
APR 18	Camellia City Rod Run Slidell, LA
APR 18	Hillcrest car show Hillcrest church, Byram, MS jsdholden@bellsouth.net
APR 17-19	Bunny Run Jackson, TN www.jacksonrodandcustom.com
APR 17-19	Rod-Tiques pre'49 street rod run Pensacola FL info: Ed @ 850-429-0738
APR 25	Car Show by Antique Vehicle Club Brandon courthouse annex 601-941-5800
APR 23-25	C5 C6 Corvette Bash, Bowling Green KY
APR 30- MAY 3	4th Annual Blue Suede Cruise Bancorp South Center, Tupelo, MS info: 800/533-0611 or www.bluesc.com
MAY 1-3	NSRA Nats South Knoxville, MS
MAY 2	Swinging Bridge Festival car show Byram, MS details tba
MAY 2	Classic car show Beach Park Pascagoula, MS
MAY 9	Show at the O open car show at O'Reilly's in Clinton
MAY 8-9	Cruisin' on the River Vidalia, LA info: 316-336-8265
MAY 13	Cruise-in for patients Whitfield State Hospital, MS
MAY 16	Crooked Creek Car Fest, Pelahatchie, MS
MAY 16	Car Show Turtle Creek Mall Hattiesburg, MS
MAY 16	Delta Classic car show Boyle, MS
MAY 16	Hot Rod Saturday VA Hospital , Biloxi, MS
MAY 16	Club 66 car show Carthage, MS info: 601 367-0357
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 6	Walthall Co. Dairy Fest car show Tylertown, MS
JUN 13	Blueberry Festival car show Poplarville, MS
JUN 21	Cars at the Zoo Jackson, MS Zoological Park event
JUN 26-28	Good Guys South nats Nashville, TN
JUL 4	Rods & Hawgs at the Shed BBQ hwy 53 Gulfport, MS

JUL 25-27	25 th Catfish Run Sardis, Ms Miss. Delta Rodders pre '49
AUG 6-9	NSRA Street Rod Nationals Louisville, KY
AUG 7-9	Hot Summer Nights car show Beaumont, TX
SEP 4-6	Parade of Rods, Houma, LA. Mardi Gras street rods info: Jed @985 532-2777
SEP 12	Vettes by the Lake all Corvette show Mirror Lake Plaza Jackson, MS
SEP 11-12	Cruisin the River Columbus, MS
SEP 18-19	Rock & Roll Revival Queen City Rods, Meridian, MS
SEP 26	Heritage Festival car show Raleigh, MS 601/4057685
OCT 4-11	Cruisin The Coast Mississippi Gulf coast www.cruisinthecoast.com
OCT 7-18	AVCM State Fair antique car show Fairgrounds, Jackson. MS
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
OCT 31	Ghosts, Ghouls, & Goblins car show Hardy Court, Gulfport, MS
NOV 6-8	Klassy Kruzers Fun Run, Crossett, AR 870 364/6662
NOV 7	3 rd annual McLauren Baseball Classic benefit car show
NOV 9-14	Emerald Coast Cruise-In Panama City Beach. FL
DEC 5	Madison,Ms Christmas Parade info 601 573-5873

MISSED IT AGAIN

If you don't know anything about automobile racing, don't read the following story, you'd probably just get confused.

It 's probably a little known fact that Bo Laird, Wayne Thomas and I have tired unsuccessfully for the past five years to enter a car and race it in the famous 24 hours of Daytona endurance race held each year in January at the Daytona International Speedway. I think it's time you all were made aware of it, since it looks like we're never going to get to do it. The first time we tried it, the FIA would not let us enter Bo's Chevy pickup truck due to the fact it would not meet the prototype specifications. Plus it was green and most other racers are very superstitious about green race cars, especially if they are pickup trucks.. What a bunch of elite snobs those sports car guys are!

The next year we thought sure we were going to get to race. Bo had gotten sponsorship from the D'Lo Ladies Garden Club, so we had adequate funding and were all set to go. But that's when the contract dispute came up between him and Wayne. Wayne had demanded a raise and wanted his own tire pressure gauge. They didn't get this contractually worked out until after the race had started. Bo finally agreed to buy him and Wayne a matching shirt with their names on it plus a new chrome tire pressure gauge. I got no shirt in the deal, but hey, I just wanted to race !

But the next year, the Garden Club pulled their sponsorship dollars because Bo let his yard grass grow up until it was too tall to read the yard of the month sign the D'Lo Ladies Garden club had put in his yard in front of his trailer.

The next year, we tried to go independent, but another controversy arose concerning which of the three of us would drive which shift during the 24 hour race. Due to our ages, none of us were able to stay awake to drive during the night hours of the race. If we all stopped at 10, our usual bedtime, the car would have to sit in the pits until we woke up the next morning. By then, we would have been 678 laps behind with no chance whatsoever of catching up by the noon finish time of the race. None of the trio was willing-or able- to give up a night's sleep. Plus we were concerned that those dadgum foreigners in the pit stall next to us would steal our gas while we slept.

Then this year, things did not go well again. With no sponsorship, and no testing (Michael had moved some of his furniture into the team's wind tunnel behind Bo's trailer, halting all chances of essential aero testing) our chances didn't look good. We had even tried a merger like some of the big NASCAR teams, but for some reason nobody seemed interested in a merger with a team with only 2 shirts, one tire pressure gauge, no wind tunnel facility, inability to stay awake for 24 hours and no money. But, at the last minute, hopes soared as Bo said we could run his Camaro convertible and he had rewritten Wayne's contract so we all were even going to share Wayne's tire pressure gauge. For funding, we had applied to new President Obama for some of that bail-out money he is passing out (why not, everyone else is getting some.)

But then, Bo's wife, Sara, said we could not race the Camaro because she had to use it that weekend to go to Wal Mart, Wayne lost the tire pressure gauge, Bo had ripped his shirt helping Michael move his furniture into the wind tunnel, and by the time we got the bail-out funding application filled out with all the government red tape paperwork, the race was over again. Besides, my helmet sat on a shelf in the shop so long a bird has built a nest in it. So I'm through with the 24 Hours of Daytona.

I told you non-racers not to read this. You probably didn't understand a thing I was talking about.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

There will be will be two club meetings this month to be sure all rod run details are in place. February 12 and 26 will be the two meeting dates for February, both at the Golden Corral restaurant on Lakeland Drive. Both start with supper at 6 followed by the club meeting. Please be there.

Oh yeah, club dues are due. See ya at the parade Saturday.

Till next time, drive carefully

Jack