

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

Joe Laird and Steve Ravesies are once again promoting the annual Salute to Veterans cruise-in the weekend after Veterans Day. **All area car club members** are invited to bring your classic car to the VA Hospital on Woodrow Wilson Drive at 2 p.m., Sunday afternoon, November 14. Meet in the parking lot on the left behind the hospital building. It will last a couple of hours as they allow the hospitalized veterans to come outside and look at our cars. This always brings some interesting stories from these great men as they see the old cars. Some are able to walk, some are in wheelchairs, and they all are extremely worthy of a couple of hours of your time to go by with your car and honor them with a visit. Honor these wonderful men AND your country by going by there that afternoon. We might ride somewhere afterwards and get a bite to eat.

Pete Tyer calls to tell us about another event he calls "a car club social event" on Tuesday, November 16 at the Elite Restaurant on Capitol street downtown. This will be a simple get together of members of all area car clubs designed to get everyone to know everyone else better. It starts at 6 or 6:30 as members of all area car clubs are invited to come eat, visit and talk cars.

I sent in an entry for MSRA to ride in the Byram Christmas parade, Saturday morning December 4. Come ride with us if you can and bring the whole family. It is a short parade and a fun way to kick off the Christmas season. They ask that instead of an entry fee, each car bring a stuffed toy for presentation to the kids at Blair Batson Children's Hospital. So far as I know, throwing candy is permitted in this parade. Lineup is on Byram parkway at 9 a.m. There is also a parade in Madison at 10 that morning if that is more convenient for you. But we'd sure love to have you all at the Byram parade. We'll have our new club banners there so everyone can know who we are.

A word of caution, based on an incident that happened to one of our club members recently. Do NOT attempt to start your street rod unless you are sitting behind the wheel with your foot on the brakes. Eric attempted to start his yellow convertible last week from outside the car while it was sitting on his lift. For some reason the neutral safety switch failed to work and the car started, lurched off the lift and crunched the running board and fenders on one side. As bad as this was, it could have been much worse. Please be careful.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

"Why don't we ride down to Lorman Saturday and eat at that old store". That suggestion at the board of directors meeting turned into the best MSRA ride of the year so far. It was an absolutely perfect beautiful fall day October 16. It was a quickly planned trip and with such a short notice I was concerned about getting the word out. But it turned out to be the best attended and most enjoyable ride we've had all year. When I got to the visitor's center on the Natchez Trace Saturday morning, ten other rods were already there, and another five joined in at various places along the Trace and the sixteen car train rolling along looked great. Lots of waves from the bikers who were out in force also. My 38 Chevy (the roadster was leaking trans fluid), Jack's 37 Chevy (he left the Miata at home), Fred's 37 Chevy (yes he made the trip—leg cast and all), Wayne's 34 Ford, Herman's 31 Chevy, Butch's 33 Willys, John's 47 Chevy, John's 23 T Ford, Jimmy's 36 Plymouth, Carey's 40 Chevy, Jack's 40 Ford truck, Charles's 27 Ford roadster, Joe's 41 Chevy, Ronnie's 31 Chevy truck, George's 37 Packard, and Art's Oldsmobile convertible made up the caravan. Al and Terra tagged along too in their HHR, but they ARE working on the 48 pickup. So if you count them, we had 17 cars. This group of hot rods, strung out in a line of red, yellow, blue, white, black, maroon, grey and orange colors was a perfect match to the clear blue sky and the slowly changing autumn leaves on the trees lining the scenic Natchez Trace. If I sound a little...well...over poetic...I guess it's just the hot rod lover in me coming out because it was really a nice showing of our favorite cars and folks. We all pulled into Rocky Springs Park for a rest stop and picked up our tour guide Ronnie in his 31 Chevy from Vicksburg. He knows the territory as his beloved deer camp is nearby. We pulled out again headed for lunch at the Old Country Store in Lorman. Now for the food part: I'd been to this place a few years ago. It is right on highway 61 just south of Port Gibson. It was an old general store built in the 1800's and half of it has been converted to a buffet restaurant. The other half still has the old store shelves filled with antiques and memorabilia. The old wooden floors creak when you walk on them. The buffet was stocked with fried chicken and ribs, plus all sorts of other good stuff like green beans, black-eyed peas, corn, rice, cornbread dressing, turnip greens, mashed potatoes.....well you get the picture. When we hit it, about 29 strong, Mr. D, the main man, had to fire up the kitchen on max drive. Best ribs and chicken I'd had in ...well since the last time I was down there. Mr. D finally caught up in the kitchen and came out to welcome everyone, tell about the history of the store, and even sing a song about his grandmama's cornbread. He also led us in singing happy birthday to Jimmy. Was it his birthday? Talk about eating him out of house and home, that table next to us did it. A certain young lady, who I won't call by name, went over there with three plates full of chicken, carrying a plate in each hand and one under her chin. She said "John and Butch were hungry." Well after leaving the buffet empty—several times— we all went outside on the sunny front porch, stuffed and content. Mr. D came out to look at our cars. I don't think anybody really wanted to leave. I know I didn't. But Wayne had a trip to the fair planned for Saturday night back in Jackson, so we all slowly piled into the street rods and headed back home. Tour guide Ronnie took us back to Port Gibson for a gas stop. All those street rods rolling into the gas station together drew another crowd of local folks. After a short period of criticizing Julie about her cap-scarf arrangement for riding in the open '23 T bucket (looked like Granny Clampett from the Beverly Hillbillies) and getting Wayne into his proper starting position (he wanted to start inside third row.... apparently he was having a flashback to his racing days) we headed out again. The road show moved on thru beautiful and historic Port Gibson, its main street lined with civil war era houses that withstood the battles that took place there in 1860's. We got back on the Trace, made one more stop at Rocky Springs, and made our way on back to home. It had been one of the nicest rides I've ever been on with our MSRA buddies. The most comments I heard were "When are we gonna do it again." We should make it a monthly thing...ride somewhere in the street rods and eat. But it will be hard to duplicate the great weather on that fine

Saturday ride. I appreciated the great turnout, and those who missed it...well you missed a good time. And if you look at the banner line that always appears at the top of this newsletter ("Eatin' laughin' and playin' cars), we certainly had a day of "doin' what we do best".

SCARECROW CRUISE The next weekend in Madison, the MCCC held their annual Scarecrow Cruise car show, known to some of us as the Louis Oursler Nationals. (How did he manage to get his picture on every piece of paper associated with that show?) It turned out to be a big show, with over 350 cars and a really large crowd of spectators looking at the cars all day. The weather was great and a good time was had by all. Eric had his new red '37 Ford there, along with Wayne's 34 Ford, Fred's 37 Chevy, Butch's 33 Willys, Joe's 41 Chevy, Jack's 37 Chevy pickup, Westwood's '34 Studebaker, and my 32 Ford roadster. Butch set up his tent and walked off to find something to eat. By the time he got back we'd all moved under it and he had to sit out under a tree. I had to park under that tree and the topless roadster soon filled up with leaves. When I got home I blew them all out with the leaf blower, a truly unusual way to clean up a street rod. Eric refused to join us under the tent, but chose to stay at his station behind his new ride; guess he was afraid he might miss a photo op or an autograph signing. Speaking of photo ops, I let a youngster sit in my roadster for his Dad to take a photo. The kid grabbed the shift lever and pulled it down and the roadster started to roll across the yard. Fortunately, there were people close by to grab it before it ran into something. Then Cox showed up with one of those visors with the grey haircut showing out the top. That's when the rest of us left him in the tent alone. Can't take y'all anywhere. At awards time my roadster won a top ten in the nostalgia category. Most of the rest of the club cars won plaques in the street rod category, but the highest honor went to Eric's new red '37 convertible. It won **best of show**. To me that was quite an honor for Eric as well as the MSRA. The car with its unique hood and beautiful paint and unusual graphics was definitely a crowd pleaser and drew a continuous audience all day long. But he definitely got a case of the big head, and when it came time to leave, we all walked off and left him to load the "best of show" on the trailer by himself. After a few minutes of watching him try to figure out how he was going to do it, we all finally came back and helped him load it.

RIDE THRU THE WOODS The next weekend I took the '38 to the "Ride Thru the Woods" event in Raymond. This turned out to be a very enjoyable day. It started with a ride from Raymond to Port Gibson on old highway 462. This route was a beautiful tree lined, curving road for about 40 miles with lots of old homes, cemeteries, old churches, stores, old barns and such to look at. About 30 cars and motorcycles went on the tour and they attracted lots of attention along the way. This route was definitely a lot prettier than the nearby Natchez Trace. After a brief stop in Port Gibson, everyone headed back to Raymond on the Trace. When the tour cars arrived in Raymond, a number of cars already filled the small lot across the street from the old railroad depot. Close to 50 cars made up this first show of its type in Raymond. Several bands that featured vocal, blue grass, and rock music played all afternoon. They gave some unique trophies in several categories. J.C. May's model A Ford delivery won the street rod class. I won a trophy presented by Tin Shed BBQ, the event's food vendor. Fred and Junior also had their street rods there. This event was something a little different, combining a tour with a parked car show and promoters say they will have more of them next year. See pics on their website www.hambonesmotorkulture.com

20TH FUN RUN The next weekend several of us went to Crossett, Arkansas to the 20th annual rod run there. On that Friday morning, the three Creel bothers, Don Wade with his Chevy truck, George & Marie in their Packard, Nancy in her '38 Chevy, Joe & Jeri in their 41 Chevy, and me in my 38 headed west. In Louisiana we met others at the rest stop there. The Round man, the Mowery's from Pensacola, Siffords 55 Ford pickup, Chicken Willie in his 40 Ford, Cynthia Smith, and Ron Neihaus in his 31 pickup joined us. We all rolled into Crossett just before lunch and checked in. About 100 cars made up this year's show and it

was a barrel of fun from the time we got there. Cars from Louisiana., Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, Florida and even Pennsylvania were on hand. This run is always like a big family reunion with friends from all over the area and the friendship and camaraderie makes it the most enjoyable rod run of the entire year. The weather was cool and sunny and this year's edition of the Fun Run was one of the best I can remember. The Klassy Kruzers ran a great show, keeping us fed and entertained the whole weekend. Our group took home their share of trophies too. I won two games, Nancy won the ladies choice trophy and the money guess, Jimmy won favorite Mopar, Joe, Don, and Rabbit Niehaus won a sponsor trophy, and Jere Laird won the ladies grand prize. Jimmy Creel and Roundman got a trophy for having attended all twenty of the previous Fun runs in Crossett. The ride home with lunch at Grannies' in Bastrop with a large number of our friends made the weekend complete. Almost home, I witnessed a horrendous motorcycle crash right in front of me. The biker must have been running close to 100 trying to catch up with some others ahead of him. He lost control just after he passed me and the 18 wheeler right in front of me. The big Harley flipped end over end about ten times, throwing him off in the median of I 20. His body and the bike were still flipping as I passed by. Pieces of the Harley were flying everywhere. If he had fallen on the highway instead of the grass median, both me and the 18 wheeler would have surely run over him. I called 911 and kept on going. Y' all that ride bikes, please be careful !!!!

So after five straight weekends of car show and rod runs, I'm going to shut down until the Christmas parades. The roadster needs tie rod ends and the 38 needs to be cleaned up really good. But those two wonderful old cars have given me a lot of enjoyment over the past two months. See ya at the VA cruise.

2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
NOV 5	MAMA Cars Under the Stars info: 601 937-5314
NOV 5-7	Fun Run Crossett, AR street rods & pre '66 models. Info: 870 364-3842
NOV 8-13	Emerald Coast Cruz-in Panama City FL beach 662 587-9572
NOV 14	Salute to veterans cruise-in at VA hospital 2 p.m. info
NOV 16	Area Car club social. 6 :30 Elite Restaurant. Capitol St., downtown Jackson
DEC 4	Byram Christmas parade 10 a.m. Byram Parkway
DEC 4	Madison Christmas Parade 9 a.m.
DEC 12	MSRA Christmas Party Raymond Lake Lodge
2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
JAN 8-9	Race Car Extravaganza - World of Show & Go Jackson Fairgrounds
JAN 15	Statewide Planning Meeting same location as last year 1011 Lake Harbour
JAN 15-16	Race Car Extravaganza – World of Show & Go Mobile, AL coliseum
JAN 21-23	Winter rod run, Diamondhead, MS info: 228 2240133
FEB 4-6	33rd Ramblin Oldies rod run pre' '49 Baton Rouge, LA info: 225-673-8562
MAR 4-5	Goin' to Town car show, downtown Brookhaven, MS info: 601 833-8620
MAR 19	8th Annual Troop 98 show & Shine Byram, MS 601 937-1928
MAR 25-27	Dixie Run 33 at Sleep Inn at Flowood, MS pre'-49 street rods only info:601-937-1928 Friday night BBQ, ladies tea, magic show, play money auction for prizes, \$500 grand prize, \$100 pre-registration prize, trophies, dash plaques, games. Downloadable entry flyer @ ms-sra.org info: 601-9371928
APR 2	Benefit Car show at Pisgah Elementary school in Brandon, MS info:

	susan.williford@rcsd.ms
APR 1-3	Parade of Rods Houma, LA
APR 3-8	Redneck Power Tour 2011. for details call Fuzzee @ 601 575-8218
APR 9	Gnat Nationals Bay St. Louis info: 228 216-1259
APR 16	Camelia City Run Slidell park Slidell, La info: 985 863-9256
APR 16	Rumblin' in Ridgeland car show by MCCC details TBA
APR 30	3rd Annual Swinging Bridge Festival car show Byram, MS info: 601 373-3933 Open car show, carnival rides, live bands, entertainment, food, family fun sponsored by Byram Business Assn.
APR 29 MAY 1	Blue Suede Cruise in Tupelo info: www.bluesc.com
MAY 7	Show at the O , O'Reilley's Auto Parts in Clinton, MS. BRC
MAY 14	Hot Rod Saturday. Gulf coast VA hospital 228 392-6134
MAY 14	Crooked Creek Car Fest Pelahatchie, MS (tentative date) Lion's Club host
MAY 20-22	Dixie Rodders fun run, Meridian, MS info: 601 938-3060
MAY 28	Shake Rattle & Roll Car show by MCCC in Madison details TBA
MAY 28	Red hills Festival car show Louisville, MS info: 662 803-4205
JUN	2nd ASRA street rod reunion pre-'49 street rods only Date & location TBA
JULY 29-31	Catfish Run, Sardis Lake, MS pre-'49 street rods only info: 662 429-7265

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

With several folks off at the Emerald Coast car show this week, the November club meeting will be held one week later than usual. On Thursday, November 18, we'll meet to eat at 6 o'clock at Coolwater Café on Lake Harbour Drive. Club meeting will follow the meal. Plans for Dixie Run 33 will be the main topic for this meeting.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Remember the VA cruise Nov 14, the area Christmas parades December 4 and the Club Christmas party at Raymond Lake Lodge on December 12.

One more thing. Marie Phillips asked me to let you all know that she came through her cancer related procedure today just fine. The doctors are encouraged that it was caught early enough and some radiation treatments are planned to be sure the recovery continues successfully. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Till next time, drive carefully

Jack