

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

The 34th annual Dixie Rod Run is changing locations in 2012. It will be held at the Holiday Inn/Trustmark Park complex just off I 20 in Pearl, Ms. In addition to the new venue, many, many activities, some old, some new are being added to this annual pre-'49 street rod show. MSRA, Trustmark Park, and Holiday Inn of Pearl will be hosting this big street rod event the weekend of March 23-25, 2012. Street rods from all over the south, and even some from as far north as Illinois are expected. MSRA officials and the Pearl Chamber of Commerce staff are busy behind the scenes lining up all the details for this 34th edition of Dixie Run, which promises to be one of the best ever editions of the longest running street rod event in the state. You will soon be receiving a flyer / entry blank and a letter with details about this "new version" of a historic car show.

The Ms Delta Street rods have announced their annual Catfish run is changing dates. After years of fighting the late July heat, they are moving their rod run to the March 30 –April 1 weekend. That is the weekend immediately after Dixie Run weekend. I understand this could possibly put a strain on some of the out-of-state rodders who normally attend both events, let me try to put a positive spin on this. Why don't you plan a week's vacation in Mississippi in 2012. Come on down to the Magnolia state, attend Dixie Run March 23-25, then spend the week seeing the sights of Mississippi in the spring, such as the Natchez Trace, the Tupelo attractions, Elvis' birthplace and the automobile museum, the Vicksburg Civil War park, Natchez antebellum homes which are open this time of year, or the beautiful revitalized gulf coast with its great seafood, beaches and casinos. Then on the way home you can attend the Catfish Run in Sardis on March 30 thru April 1. Two great pre '49 street rod events, plus a generous dose of Mississippi hospitality, could be bookends for a week and get your vacation time done early before it gets too hot. Just a thought.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

Well the heat wave finally blew off and left us with some fine rod ridin' weather. September 10 we met in the parking lot at Los Parillos and rode over to the Robby Grant benefit car show at Pearl Park. Twelve of us rode in together and

another 6 joined us there for a big turnout of 18 MSRA street rods. I gathered that they were expecting about 100 cars, but well over two hundred vehicles came and it was quite a variety. A sizeable amount of money was raised to help the Grant's medical expenses. Eric's new '37 Ford won best of show and Fred Lytle, Barbara Ethridge, and Gary Adams each picked up a trophy. Fred said his was for top 350. Gary was so excited to win one he didn't remember what it was for. Gary got 2 actually. The only thing we could we could figure is that he was playing catch up. I had always thought that the shady park in Pearl would make an ideal location for a car show. The 200+ vehicle turnout proved that to be the case, and it was a very, very enjoyable day. The highly visible location right on hiway 80 brought in a very large spectator turnout and the concession stands were all doing a booming business. Paul and Peggy Acey debuted their '40 Ford convertible, after 30 years of construction. Bubba Acey was there in Stan's yellow '46 Ford sedan, along with Fred Lytle's yellow 37 Chevy, Jimmy Creel's red & black '36 Plymouth, Carey Creel's red 40 Chevy, The Ainsworths in their '35 Ford, the Phillips in their blue '40 Packard, Vic in his red '34 Ford, Wayne's blue '34 Ford, Eric's red '37 Ford, Barbara's red '34 Ford, Jack Cox's black '37 Chevy pickup, Gary Adams' orange Dodge convertible, the Grossi's red 48 Chevy, Robert Harrison's silver 29 Ford, the Pepper's yellow '23 T bucket, J.C. May's 29 Ford delivery, and my crappy looking partly sanded and flat black '32 Ford roadster all made the scene. There were several other new rods on hand, like Bob Taggart's brand new red '40 Ford pickup rat rod, and a couple of other rat rods. There was a lowered 49 Cadillac with a blower motor and even a highly customized golf kart. For a show put together in just a few weeks it was a very good collection of cars and all a tribute to the respect the car community has for Robbie Grant's work.

The next weekend I was up to my ears in postponed yard work and didn't go anywhere in my roadster. But some of you did drive to a couple of events. Eric, Wayne and Louis went to the benefit poker run at Shuckers. It turned out to be mainly a biker thing and they were the only cars there. Eric, Wayne and the Adams went to Al's in Vicksburg for their cookout that afternoon. I got no reports of anyone going to the Vicksburg show. Joe Laird and John & Julie Pepper went to Hazlehurst to the Railroad Festival show. Both won trophies.

Then came Cruisin the Coast. The weather forecast was the best in years, so I loaded up the roadster and headed for the coast on Sunday morning. The first Sunday venue, Hardy Court shopping center, was already packed when I got there, so I went on to downtown Gulfport. It was filling rapidly. The Rats had saved me a parking place (in a patch of weeds) but with the crowd, I was glad to get it. The parking spilled over the blocked off areas all the way to hwy 90, giving an indication of the size of the crowd that would show up the rest of the week. I hung out at the Gulfport site most of Monday, found some great gumbo and shrimp po-boys to eat 'til the parade time neared at Long Beach. The Rats had taken over the Waffle House parking lot to watch the parade, then the police changed the parade route so we couldn't see much from there. So much for planning ahead. On Tuesday, the Biloxi VA site was packed by the time I got there, even though it was 8 a.m. Cars were parked everywhere and I saw many

old friends. On Wednesday I got to the Biloxi downtown block party by 8:30 and had to park blocks away from 90 on the last street before the railroad tracks. Unbelievable crowd. After walking around a couple of hours my feet advised me to do otherwise. So I headed over to Ocean Springs to McElroy's to find that flounder filet that was calling me. Full of that wonderful seafood, I headed back to the place with the most shade, Gulfport, found a great big ol oak tree on the grounds alongside hwy 90 and parked to watch the many, many rides going up and down Beach Blvd. More shrimp followed and I was just about worn out. Thursday morning I ran out of money and a place to park so I loaded up and headed north. A constant stream of cars going south warned of the virtual gridlock the coast was about to become. But I had enjoyed my 5 days living the dream of driving a roadster along Beach Blvd with NO rain. Didn't realize how tired I was til I got home. I didn't even unload the car for 3 days. There was a near record registration this year and with almost as many more unregistered cars plus the weekend lookers, all the facilities on the coast were taxed to their limits. But it continues to be in my opinion the finest automotive event in the southeast. Can't wait for next year already.

2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
OCT 15	Rock & Roll Revival & Nostalgia Drags at Battlefield Drag Strip Collinsville, MS info:www.battlefieldraceway.net
OCT 15	Cruzin' Lake Hazle car show by Tite Wod Rodz Hazlehurst, MS info 601-720 7223
OCT 21-22	8 th Scarecrow Cruise & car show by MCC Madison, Ms info: 601 259-5248
OCT 29	Halloween Cruise-IN Slidell, LA info: 985 646-1615
NOV 4-6	21 st annual Fun Run Crossett, AR info 870 364-9481 pre-'66
NOV 5	Chillin' & Grillin' car show Taylorsville, MS
NOV 5	Boulevard Cruisers Fall show Picayune, MS 601 798-3166
NOV 7-12	Emerald coast Cruise-in Panama City Beach, FL at Frank Brown Park Info: www.emeraldcoastcruizin.com
NOV 12-13	Rippin Gearz car show Fitzgerald's Casino Tunica, MS info: Tgoodwin@compcams.com
DEC 2	Christmas parade at Whitfield State Hospital 9 a.m.
DEC 3	Byram Christmas Parade. 10 a.m.
DEC 3	Pearl Christmas Parade
DEC 11	Santa's Cruise Toys for Tots Edgewater Mall, Gulfport
2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
JAN 7-8	Racing Vehicle Extravaganza Jackson Fairgrounds Trade Mart
JAN 14	Statewide car club planning meeting Coolwater Café, Ridgeland. MS
JAN 20-21	Winter Rod Run by Southern Who Covington, LA

FEB 3-5	34th R.O.D.S. Holiday Inn S, Baton Rouge, La info: www.streetrods.org
MAR 3	Goin to Town car show Brookhaven, MS details tba
MAR 17	9 th Annual Scout Troop 98 Show & Shine at Springridge UMC in Byram, MS info 601 937-1928
MAR 16-18	Singing River Rod Run details tba
MAR 23-25	34 th Dixie Run Pearl, MS pre-'49 street rods only Trustmark Park/Holiday Inn
MAR 31	Pisgah Elem. School car show
MAR 30- APR 1	Catfish Run, Sardis, MS Ms Delta Street Rods pre '49
APR 26-29	100 th annual Coonass-Redneck Nats Hammond La. Randy Wilson
MAY 12	Hot rod Saturday Biloxi VA hospital
MAY 18-20	Dixie Rodders Run Meridian, MS
MAY 26	Shake Rattle & Roll car show Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Madison, Ms by MCC info: 601 573-5873

NEXT MSRA CLUB MEETING:

Thursday, October 20, 6 p.m. at Los Parillos Mexican restaurant in Pearl. This is a VERY important club meeting. All the up to date details about the move of Dixie Run to the new location at Pearl will be presented. Lots still left to plan, but we need all MSRA members on board as planning for this event continues.

WHAT'S NEXT

This weekend, Nostalgia Drags and car show at Collinsville Drag strip on hwy 19 north of Meridian. Also Tite Wod Rodz 1st car show at Lake Hazel in Hazlehurst. Next weekend, Nov 18-19, Scarecrow Cruize car show in Madison. On the first weekend in November, MSRA will be going up to Crossett, Arkansas for their annual fun run. We'll meet in the parking lot at McDonald's in Clinton Friday Nov. 4 at 8 a.m.. Then, proceeding on I 20, we'll meet up with some of the others at the rest stop just across the river in La and ride the rest of the way together. See you there.

PARTING THOUGHT

The shade comes free with the tree.

Till next time, drive carefully

Jack