

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

Mississippi Street Rod Association

NEWSLETTER

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

Editor Jack Brown

e-mail: rattletrapc38@aol.com

APRIL 2009

Number 6

BITS & PIECES

Check the schedule again this month. New events continue to be announced and added to the schedule. You don't want to miss anything.

Another Mississippi street rod pioneer has left us. Richard Gaston of Coldwater passed away March 23 after a lengthy illness. Richard was a member of the Mississippi Street Rod Hall of Fame and a long time member of East Miss Street rods in Starkville. He always built very roadworthy street rods, as evidenced by the trip he and Joyce once took, tracing the entire length of famous Route 66 from Illinois to the west coast in their 46 Ford. Many of you did not know that Richard also had quietly pursued an early career in NASCAR, working as a mechanic for the famous Holman-Moody racing team with Fords he prepared for Fireball Roberts. He also raced on the dirt tracks around Starkville in his own '34 Ford, pieces of which he still had at his shop. He certainly led an interesting life surrounded by his cars.

GOIN' TO TOWN

The Brookhaven show kicked off the local street rod scene with great weather and a fine turnout of almost 150 cars downtown at the railroad station. MSRA did its part as 14 of us met with another 15 cars from four other clubs in Byram that morning. Cars from the Mid-State Street Rods, Big River Classics, Antique Vehicle Club, and Miss. Classic Cruisers, plus a couple of independents joined MSRA rods for the ride. The group pulled out of McDonald's to form a beautiful caravan of 29 classics driving down Interstate 55 to Ole Brook. I was on the tail end of the line and I could not even see the front cars in the long line as we attracted waves and smiles from all we passed on the way. We've got to do that again soon. Maybe later this month?

TROOP 98 SHOW & SHINE

As most of you know, each year I help put on a show in Byram to benefit the local Boy Scout troop 98 at the Methodist church there. This was our sixth year of hosting this open show and the turnout of 120 cars was great. The near perfect weather brought out cars from all over the state plus one from Alabama and three from Louisiana. The quality of cars and trucks this year was probably the best yet. Participant voting for top ten cars and top 5 trucks must have been very difficult with that field of beautiful vehicles. The vote totals showed that as it was very, very close. There were some true classics including a real Shelby Cobra autographed by Carroll himself and a 41 Willys coupe that is the center page car in this month's *Good Guys Gazette* magazine. Since I'm always busy with registration and vote counting, I don't get to look around and visit with everyone like I'd like to, but on the two trips

I did make around the grounds it looked like everyone was having a nice time. Thanks to all who came and supported the scouts. They tell me they will do it again March 20 of next year.

The Jerry Clower Festival on May 2 in Yazoo City will have a car show again this year. Also, the Memory Lane band consisting of some MSRA members will be playing their usual brand of golden oldies at the show that night.

SWINGING BRIDGE FESTIVAL Another new event has been added to the schedule for Saturday, May 2, per George Raworth, local businessman in Byram who used to host the Saturday night cruise-ins at Portabello's. There will be an open car show in conjunction with the Swinging Bridge Festival at Southpointe Centre' in Byram. This event will carry the family atmosphere of an old time county fair. In addition to the open car show, the Swinging Bridge Festival will have much to offer, including a flea market, a carnival with lots of rides, lawn mower races, a beauty pageant, plenty of food vendors, oldies music, live bands, magician Robert Day, and an entertainment stage for local talent. The bands, featuring the Red Top Review and Shadz of Grey, and the carnival will be open the festival on Friday night, May 1, with the car show and other activities all day Saturday. It is all happening in the big field behind Portabello's off the east frontage road. The time is 10 a.m. til 3. There will be drawings for free gifts each hour, plus valuable gift bags for the first 100 car show participants that stay till 3 p.m. Each entry will receive a dash plaque and there is **NO entry fee** for the car show, as it is being sponsored by the Byram Business Association, NAPA Auto Parts, Sonic Drive Inn, Bank Plus, McDonald's, and the Southpointe Center'. George asked me to help him with the car show, so pardon all the free advertising of this event, but, Hey it's right here in my own home town, so I'm naturally going to help promote it. Looks like a lot of family fun that weekend. Y'all come join us. Go Away Rain!!!

The Rankin County Hot Rods asked me to announce that they will resume their monthly Saturday night cruise-in at the Sonic Drive-In on 49 South in Florence. Cruise-ins will be held **the third Saturday night of each month** beginning at 5 p.m. from March through October.

DIXIE RUN 31 What can I say about this? It's been called the "rain run", "underwater on wheels", "liquid sunshine nationals" and a couple of other things. Mother Nature decided to restore the water table level in Mississippi that weekend. It rained, and rained, and rained some more in the days leading up to the annual Dixie rod run. No doubt all that rain hurt our crowd, heck I doubt if I'd have tried to come to Jackson myself with all the dire predictions concerning massive rainfall amounts. But the fifty hard core street rodders from six states who did brave the elements were given the best MSRA had to offer as far as street rod fun.

I was never more proud to be a member of this great little club. The group of club members who met us there Thursday night, in the rain, to put up the tents, park the trailers, and set up everything never grumbled (well maybe a little) but helped out whenever asked to and even kept a cheerful attitude, knowing the weekend would be a difficult one at best. There's nothing like getting a face full of rainwater when you moved a tent pole. And that happened more than once. You guys and girls really put forth a truly heroic effort to help put on Dixie Run this year under the most adverse weather conditions in the 31 year history of the event. We all got wet, dried out and got wet some more, as we pulled together during some pretty bad weather conditions to put up tents, cook and serve a barbeque supper, play games, hand out awards, and entertain our wonderful group of friends who came to our rod run. But I have to mention that poor Paul Acey had a wreck in his street rod on the way out to the run on Saturday. Fortunately, it is repairable.

It was meaningful to me that a number of our guests came back for the first time in several years. All of them seemed to understand our situation and took the rain storms in stride. Like us, they all were determined to have a good time in spite of dodging rain showers

Friday and a part of Saturday. To the five cars from Illinois who came south to get away from the "bad weather up north", we love y'all and hope you'll come back. Talk about some die hard street rodders, WOW.

The Boggs family who produced the Friday night BBQ, which got the wet weekend off to a good start, and the rest of you who stood in water puddles to hand out the food were so great. The ladies enjoyed the tea, a new, first time event held indoors on Saturday. Terra's tea party was apparently a hit with the girls. Poor Chicken Willie wandered in just to get a drink of water and the ladies threw him out. The games, especially the grapefruit swing game, brought back from years past, proved to be entertaining and hilarious. Robert Day kept the crowd of kids...and us older kids...spellbound with his magic show. Eric said there was a group in the lobby Saturday night watching videos of past Dixie Runs that stayed there til almost midnight. Larry and Louise gave us an inspirational message Sunday morning in spite of the CD player acting up. That's got to be one of the funniest things ever to occur at a Dixie Run. Louise was going to sing a song titled "God sent the Angels", but when Eric pushed the button on the player, out came "Duke Duke Duke Duke of Earl" I guess the tape player was wet like everything else. Louise took it in stride and I know God has a sense of humor too.

This years Dixie Run was truly a great effort under difficult circumstances by both club members and participants. It was a success by most all standards and accomplished what we set out to do: That is, have a fun weekend sharing some enjoyable times and visiting with our street rod friends. A great huge THANK YOU to both club members and participants!!!!!! And would you believe after it was over Sunday, Bennie Boggs bought my lunch?

2009 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
APR 4	Car show 10 til 2 at Home Depot in Madison
APR 4	Camellia Classic car show Mobile, AL 251-675-7391
APR 4	Boulevard Cruisers car show Picayune, MS
APR 10-11	VCCC Red Carpet Classic, Blackburn Motor Co. Vicksburg, MS 601/831-2597
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 228-216-1259
APR 11	Crossroads Cruisers Winona, MS Coliseum info: 662-653-6812
APR 18	Camellia City Rod Run Slidell Park Slidell, LA 985-639-9919
APR 18	Hillcrest car show Hillcrest church, Byram, MS jsdholden@bellsouth.net
APR 18	Cruzn the Delta at Monroe, LA. Motor Speedway info: 318-651-4416
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, TN
MAY 2	Swinging Bridge Festival car show Byram, MS info:601-373-3933
MAY 2	Classic car show Beach Park Pascagoula, MS
MAY 2	Jerry Clower Festival car show Yazoo City, MS 662-571-7937
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 601-854-8032
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
MAT 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 23	Red Hills Festival Car Show Louisville, MS info: Jerry, 662-803-4205
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
MAY 30	Bay Fest Car show City Park, Bay Springs, MS 601-739-3314
JUN 6	Walthall Co. Dairy Fest car show Tylertown, MS 601-684-2609
JUN 13	Blueberry Festival car show Poplarville, MS
JUN 21	Cars at the Zoo Jackson, MS Zoological Park event www.jacksonzoo.org
JUN 26-28	Good Guys South nats Nashville, TN
JUL 4	Rods & Hawgs at the Shed BBQ hwy 53 Gulfport, MS 228-832-1147
JUL 24-26	25 th Catfish Run Sardis, MS Miss. Delta Rodders pre '49 662-429-7265
AUG 6-9	NSRA Street Rod Nationals Louisville, KY
AUG 7-9	Hot Summer Nights car show Beaumont, TX
AUG 13-15	Ga Mountain Moonshine Cruise, Hiawasse, GA info: gammooncruisein.com
SEP 4-6	Parade of Rods, Houma, LA Mardi Gras street rods info: Jed @985 532-2777
SEP 12	2 nd Pulpwood Festival Car show New Hebron, MS
SEP 12	Vettes by the Lake all Corvette show Mirror Lake Plaza Jackson, MS
SEP 11-12	Cruisin the River Columbus, MS info 662-494-6086
SEP 12	2 nd annual 4 H club car show Carthage, MS info 601-267-8036
SEP 19	Rock & Roll Revival Meridian, MS Info:queencitycar@hughes.net
SEP 26	Heritage Festival car show Raleigh, MS 601/4057685
OCT 4-11	Cruisin The Coast Mississippi Gulf coast www.cruisinthe coast.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 24	2 nd annual Cruise-in & BBQ at Performance Rehab, Byram, MS 601=346-9191
OCT 31	Ghosts, Ghouls, & Goblins car show Hardy Court, Gulfport, MS
OCT 31	Car Show Crossroads Church, Byram, MS info: Shane @ 601-506-5603
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 emeraldcoastcruizin.com
DEC 5	Madison,Ms Christmas Parade info 601 573-5873

NEXT CLUB MEETING

OK, Dixie Run is behind us and we can get back to the business of being the best little car club in town. There are plenty of shows for us to go to as a group and we're open to suggestions of other club activities we can do centered around the cars. Next club meeting will be Thursday, April 9 at Golden Corral on Lakeland Drive. We'll eat at 6 with the club meeting to follow.

WHAT'S NEXT? Ok, how 'bout this. April 11, the Vicksburg Cruisers are hosting a car show at Blackburn Motor Co dealership on the I20 frontage road. Let's go. Meet at the McDonald's / Kroger parking lot in Clinton and pull out at 8 a.m. for the short ride over to Vicksburg. Since we had such a good turnout for the Brookhaven cruise with participation by cars from other clubs riding with MSRA, let's try that again. All you other local clubs are welcome to come join the caravan with us to Vicksburg that day. Let's see if we can break the 29 car record set last month.

The next weekend, April 18, club member Dee Dukes is hosting a car show at his church, Hillcrest Baptist on Terry Road in Byram. \$10 pre entry gives you a free lunch and some really nice door prizes. I'm planning on going to that, then heading for Monroe, La Motor speedway for a cruise and show at the race track that night. Anybody want to go with me? Will have details about this at the club meeting. I told y'all I had some catching up to do.

The last weekend of the month I'm going to try the two shows in two states routine again. I'm going to Randy Wilson's Two States Rodders' show in Hammond, La Thursday and Friday, then coming back home Saturday for the show in Brandon put on by the Antique Vehicle Club. And we're just getting started.... In May there's something to do EVERY weekend (**and there's five weekends, too**) but we'll save that for later.

Till next time, drive carefully

Jack