

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2006

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revs for car
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The Herald

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Classic cars revving up to ...



Submitted photos / Special to The Herald

Madison-based Mississippi Classic Cruisers Car Club members display their cars at a recent monthly "Cruise-In" in Ridgeland.

Shake, rattle,

roll



Spectacular engines such as this one will be on display Saturday at the Mississippi Classic Cruisers Car Club benefit at Smith-Wills Stadium.

By LaReeca Rucker
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They're cars with a cause. The Mississippi Classic Cruisers Car Club will Shake, Rattle and Roll into Smith-Wills Stadium Saturday. The event, held in conjunction with Rosa Scott School, is a Katrina relief benefit for Bay High School in Bay St. Louis.

Madison County resident Tom Phillips, club director, said this is the second year the Shake, Rattle and Roll Car Show has been held.

"This year, we wanted to do something for fellow Mississippians along the Gulf Coast who were affected by Katrina," he said.

The show will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring canned goods.

Vehicle registration for entrants will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Awards will be given to the top 25 cars and top five trucks during a 2:30 p.m. presentation.

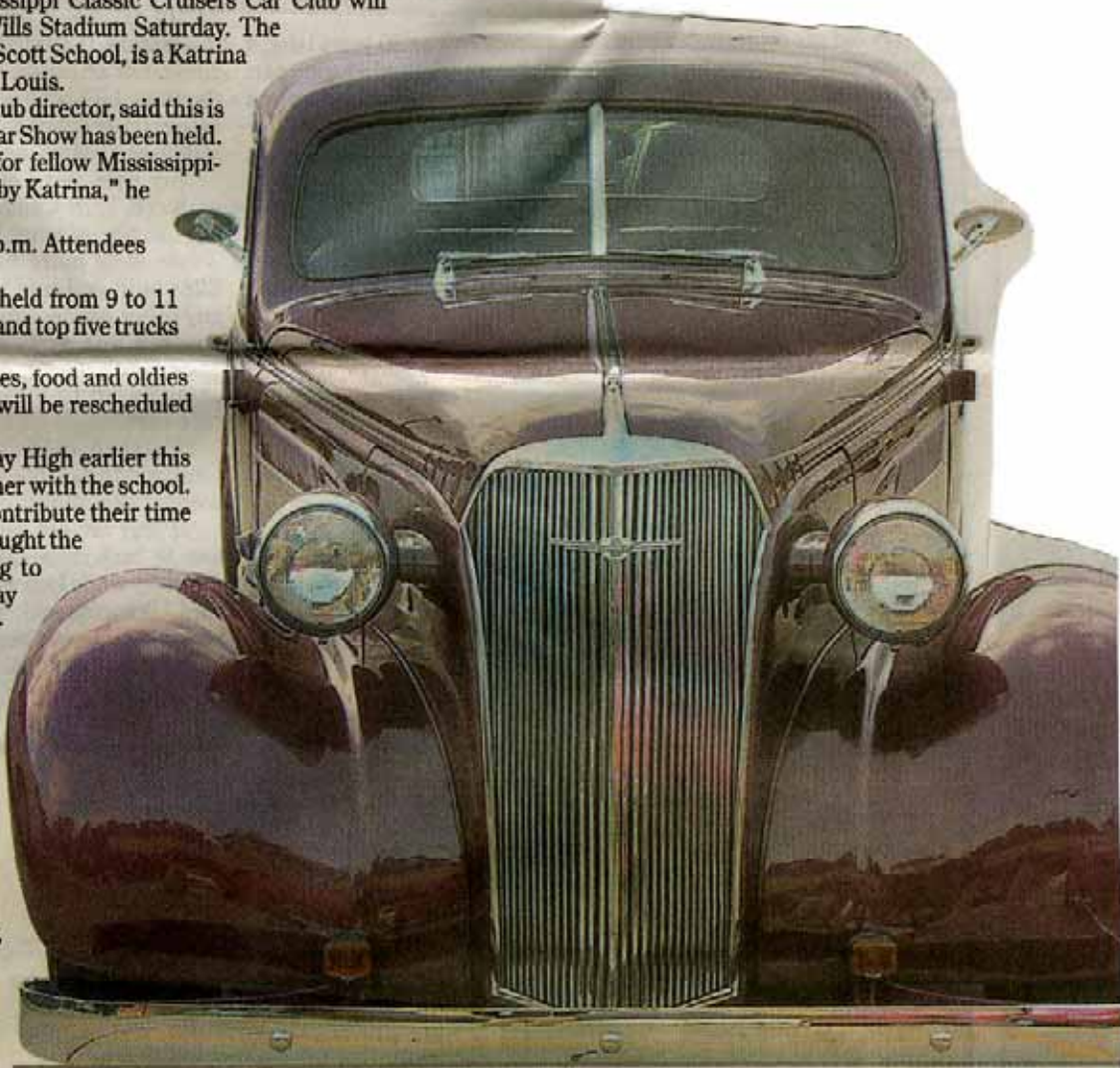
The event is free. Door prizes, kids' games, food and oldies music will be offered. If it rains, the event will be rescheduled for June 3.

Madison's Rosa Scott School adopted Bay High earlier this year, and car club members decided to partner with the school.

"If the staff and students are willing to contribute their time and energy to help Bay High School, we thought the least we could do is provide some funding to support the effort as well," Phillips said. "Bay St. Louis is still trying to rebuild and provide the students with the best education possible. Things like books for the library and computer equipment for the students are among the many things that need to be replaced."

Phillips said approximately 200 antique, classic and special-interest vehicles will be displayed at the event. These include cars and trucks, old and new, and foreign and domestic vehicles.

"If you like muscle cars from the '60s and '70s, this will truly be an event for you," Phillips said. "A lot of vehicles on display will be high-performance vehicles like Chevy's SS 454 Chevelle, Ford's Shelby GT500 Mustang or Mopar's Hemi Cuda."



This 1965 Ford Cobra Replica belongs to Madison resident Mike Jarvis.



This 1963 Chevrolet Impala is owned by Madison County resident Tom Phillips. Classic cars will be on display this weekend during a benefit at Smith-Wills stadium for Bay High School in Bay St. Louis.



This 1963 Chevrolet Corvette split-window coupe is owned by Clinton resident Mark Strum. Due to safety concerns, 1963 was the only year the company offered the split window.

Show

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the 'Gentleman's Muscle Car,' as it was the largest American-made V8 engine at 472 cubic inches displacement with 385 horsepower."

Brandon resident Randy Salter will bring his 1992 Ford SSP Mustang to the benefit.

"In a prior life, it was a Florida Highway Patrol pursuit vehicle," he said. "It has been painted back to the original black and tan colors of the FHP, complete with a spot-

light. It is the only documented factory police Mustang in the state."

Salter has had a lifelong interest in vehicles.

"It's an honest flaw that I inherited from my father after riding in his 1964 Impala SS as a child," he said. "It wasn't an antique then, although we both qualify now."

Salter said he's eager to participate in the benefit.

"I'm all for activities that directly impact and help those in our own communities and in our own state

that have had tragedy and adversity thrust upon them," he said.

Jackson residents Mike and Pam Wharton share a love for vintage cars.

"I have never been a mechanic or particularly mechanically inclined, but for some unexplainable reason, old cars have always captured our attention, whether they are pristinely restored or if they are rusting away in a hay field," Mike Wharton said.

"Every old car represents a part of history that can never be recaptured. It doesn't matter if an old car is a spotless \$200,000 show car, or

even if the car isn't particularly a very popular model in \$2,000 project condition, there is always someone who can relate to that car. There is always someone who will say they once had one of those and can kick themselves for letting it get away."

Wharton said we take for granted the necessity of having cars and don't usually realize how attached we are to them until they are wrecked or gone.

"Twenty-five or 30 years later, a flood of memories and a happy part of your life comes back when you see one that you once owned dri-

ving down the road," he said.

"That is a huge part of why people come out to the car shows. Not just to see the freshly restored mechanical masterpieces but to relive some significant history, just for a moment."

Wharton considers himself lucky to have inherited his father-in-law's 1967 Corvette Convertible.

"Though it is in need of some pretty extensive and expensive restoration, it attracts an extreme amount of attention and is one of the most highly sought after cars in the classic car phenomenon that is going on today," he said.

"My wife and I also have her dark red 1979 Camaro Z28 that she has owned since high school. There were more Camaros and Z28s built and sold in 1979 than any other production year, but if you see one now, it has more than likely been modified or chopped up to make dirt-track race cars."

Wharton said it's rare for Camaros to be "one-owner" cars without alterations.

"If they are not being driven, I love to back these cars out in the driveway while I am working in the yard," Wharton said. "It is amazing how many people stop, look, tell stories and make ridiculous offers to buy them."

IF YOU GO!

What: Mississippi Classic Cruisers Shake, Rattle and Roll Car Show.

Why: Proceeds will benefit Katrina relief efforts for Bay High School in Bay St. Louis.

Where: Smith Willis Stadium, 1200 Lakeland Drive, Jackson.

When: Saturday
For more information, contact Tom Phillips at (601) 259-5248.

Wharton said the car show is an opportunity to come out, enjoy the day and relive a memory.

"The car owners who will be participating in this show are truly great people and will take advantage of any opportunity to be involved in something that may ultimately help someone else, especially a Katrina victim," he said.

"Because of Katrina, these car owners are the type of people who truly are reminded of how much they take their possessions for granted and how fortunate they are to be able to still enjoy and hold on to something that means so much to them.

"If they can show their car and generate a donation for Katrina relief at the same time, you bet they will be there."