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It's no secret that I like road trips, well, actually . . . I LOVE road trips.

I'm up for a road trip just about anytime, any place and anywhere. I have a good sense of direction and I'm pretty good with a map. I also read directions written on a bar napkin too, but that's a whole different story.

I've been goin' to the Mississippi Gulf Coast my entire life. As a child, the Jones family reunion was what I thought a vacation was. Okay, so imagine . . . 6 kids, Mom, Dad and Grandma, all in one 1960-whatever Red Ford station wagon. And because I'm the baby of the group, my place was in the front seat between Mom & Dad. Most of the time Dads plan was to drive at night so all us kids would sleep. But when we traveled durin' the day, he'd fold the map and hand it to me. Not that Dad didn't know where we were goin', he just figured it'd keep me busy and quiet. Well, I don't know about that . . . but I can read a map!

I headed out to Cruisin' The Coast on Saturday afternoon and arrived just in time to catch up with Jimbo and the Rats at 'Souped Up Saturday' at the Bible Baptist Church in Gulfport. They had a huge turnout and it was a great way to kick off the next 8 days of cruisin'.

Sunday we all met up again at Hardy Court and the first place I stopped was at J R Drake's 'North Carolina State Prison' rat bus.



And I wasn't the only one. It seemed to be the main attraction. I don't even really know how to start tellin' you about this bus except by sayin' somethin' like . . . uh . . . 'the imaginative use of rust, re-bar and bullet holes was impressive!'

Well, we had to brave a little weather but it didn't seem to affect these gear heads. Heck, it was almost comical to watch the raisin' and lowerin' of hoods and umbrellas. At one point it was rainin' pretty good so a bunch, a whole bunch, of us found shelter under the bank drive-in lanes. It was so crowded, kinda like 'get to know your neighbor' time. But it was all good, and I found quite a few cars I thought really stood out.

The white '60 Studebaker Hawk was all original, and it was



accompanied by a blue '53 Stude truck. I liked them both!

We spent the later part of the afternoon ridin' Hwy 90, bein' a tourist, and I could only wait so long before I had to get my feet in the sand. And after a nice dinner we made our donation to the economy . . . by way of the Beau Rivage!

Monday was another wet kinda day but I was determined to make the best and see all I could, and while cruisin' the Edgewater Mall parkin' lot I found a gem, a real rare jewel. Pepper Hardy, of Irvine, Kentucky's '47 Hudson truck is one of only about 3000 originally made and I just can't imagine that there are many left. Outside of adding some LED lights and a custom bumper, the body is all original and is just spectacular. Porsche red paint and baby



moon hubcaps are the perfect fit for this truck.

When I talked to Mr. Hardy, I asked him to tell me about the chop and was surprised to hear that there was none. He asked me to picture a Hudson car with a truck bed added behind the front doors, even the same rear fenders were used. Under the hood is a little different story. It has a 350 engine, 9" Ford rear end, Chevy van steering column, power brakes, and electric wipers. But it still has the original dash! Like I said . . . a real jewel.

The rain didn't put a damper on my Cruisin' The Coast trip but as they say all things must come to an end. I had to head home but not before I made the trip out to visit with Doug & Cheryl Saucier, owners of 'JusBugs' in Pass Christian.

If you need ANYTHING for your VW, JusBugs is the place. My only advice is to put away the GPS, make sure the car is full of gas and pack a lunch before you head out. It's out in the woods, but well worth the trip.

Next stop for me is SEMA!! Can't wait!

Jeanie

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