There they were. Six performance vehicles, representing the best thinking that DaimlerChrysler has applied to a line of cars in decades. They were the SRT/8 ensemble of Jeep, Dodge Charger and Magnum, and the 300 from Chrysler. Also, the SRT/6 Chrysler Crossfire. And, the crowning glory, the Dodge Viper SRT10 coupe. In red, of course.

The place was Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The infield of the big NASCAR oval, to be exact. The event was the SRT Driving Experience hosted by the Richard Petty Driving School. The morning air was clear and cool as you'd expect at 7:30 am, but when I saw the lineup of cars, I started to sweat. Because I was here with Clubmembers Marc and Patti Viau, and we were going to spend the next seven hours driving these six vehicles.

The SRT/6 puts out 330 hp, while the four SRT/8's are good for about 425 each, and the 10 cylinder powerplant of the Viper is good for around 510 hp. Lesse 330 + 4(425) + 510= um, carry the one, yep! 2,540 horsepower! OK, that's probably less than Al Gore's private jet. But it's probably more than his entourage of SUV's! I could tell that this was going to be a fun day!

The group that day was about sixty people, so we were divided into four smaller groups of fifteen, with an instructor assigned to each group. Each group got to drive all the cars except the Viper on a short dragstrip heads up with a like car, and on a two mile roadcourse. A large slalom was for the Jeep and Crossfire. And a small drifting slalom was set up for the Magnum and Viper. The drags were a hoot, and I got to the 1/4 finals of eliminations, cutting 0.4 lights on a pro tree. Surprisingly, the SRT/6 beat all but the awd Jeep. The slaloms were fun, but slow, of course. And the Viper is amazingly easy to drive. At least in 1st gear. I was told that Richard would be peeved if I bent this thing. But the real hoot was the road course where two student cars followed an instructor. The course was tricky and fast, around 100 mph on the straight.

Y'know, I would have four Indy 500 rings by now, had I gone into racing as a profession. But I must admit that I learned a lot trying to keep up with those guys. Try it. You'll like it.

-Bob

-Bob Gough, Y'r 'umble Ed'tr /Prez

The Newsletter Of The Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

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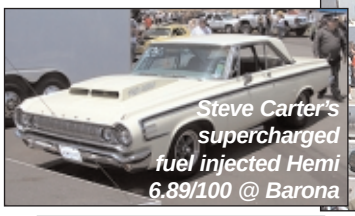
JUNE 2007

Whole lotta racin'!!!

32nd Antique Drags Sun May 20
Barona Dragway Way Lots of fast Mopars owned and driven by Clubmembers were in the field this day. Everyone got in all the runs they wanted, too; just line 'er up and let 'er go.



Steve Carter's supercharged fuel injected Hemi 6.89/100 @ Barona

Above: Jim Signorelli is twice as fast as anyone else with his two Dusters.

Pat Borovicka

Dick and Joel Miner

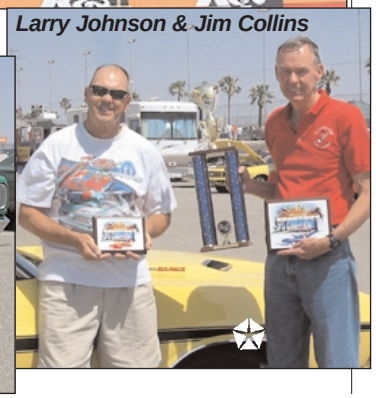
John Boville
6.78/102 @ Barona
10.68/124 @ Fontana

Jerry Keller

Ted "Diego" Montano
6.62 /@ 103 Barona
10.54/127@ Fontana

Mopar Shootout
May 26-27
California Speedway, Fontana The inaugural event on Memorial Day weekend featured a large vendor midway, a swap meet, a modest show car field, and a couple hundred racers on the 1/4 mile track. Racers included John Boville and Ted Montano who turned 10,54 @ 127 mph and 10.68 @ 124 mph, respectively, and Marc Viau, who had his Chrysler 300 SRT in the low 13 second range in the New Hemi Challenge. Ted managed to get through four rounds in the brackets. Over at the car show, Bill and Loni Andrews took 2nd, B-Body Stock with their '69 1/2 Super Bee 440/6; Larry and Debbie Johnson trophied 2nd in E-Body Modified & 2nd Peoples' Choice with their '70 Challenger 440/6; while Jim Collins red 383 '70 Road Runner took 1st in B-body Stock and Best of Show. Can't wait until next year!

Marc Viau's SRT/8 300 @ the line



Larry Johnson & Jim Collins

Bill & Loni Andrews' Super Bee

Profile

rock'n & rod'n

Clubmember Dave Lancaster has a thing about rock n' roll and hot rods. Always has. In fact, Dave can't remember when he didn't have have a tune or a hot rod on his mind. Dave is a born guitar player and song writer. And a born hot rodder, too, as his present collection proves. It includes a '29 Ford Roadster pickup that he built, featuring a chromed Jaguar independent rear end peeking from beneath the bustle of the bed. A shiny black '56 Plymouth Belvedere with a louvered hood awaiting installation of a vintage Hemi. A '68 Barracuda, presently in progress. And a '74 Charger painted in red, white and blue as a tribute to Dave's idol, Richard Petty. And until very recently, Dave's collection included a black '40 Ford sedan that he adorned with purple ghost flames, but Dave converted it to cash in order to buy this '39 Plymouth P8 two door sedan.

Many of us have come to own cars as if fate was driving the event. Like you were meant to own this car, or that one. It was at the True Lines Car Show in El Cajon during the first week of May that it happened to Dave. Intending to drive his Roadster, but couldn't as it was down for some radiator repairs, he fired up the '40 Ford and pulled into the show next to a roadster owned by his friend, Bob Chambers. Both members of the Over The Hill Gang, Bob and his wife have hinted to Dave for years that they'd like to own his Ford because the roomy back seat is perfect for the grandkids and their booster seats. While he was setting up his chair, Dave noticed a car arrive that he'd never seen before, "Interesting bodystyle", thought Dave, and he and Bob ambled over to take a closer look. He noticed right off that the side panels of the hood were not in place, showing a pair of chrome valve covers of prodigious width that had spark plug wires in the middle. Dave was staring at a vintage Mopar, all stock on the outside save the Chevy wheels and tires, with the Holy Grail of engines for a powerplant. As the owners stepped out, Dave and Bob introduced themselves and Dave asked how they liked their hot rod Mopar. "Well, just fine", said Shania Ball, "except that after six years of owning it, I've decided I'd rather have a Vette." Cutting to the chase, Dave asked her if she'd be willing to sell it and for how much. He liked what he'd heard and asked Bob if he was still interested in buying his Ford, and yes, he said he was. After a little haggling all around, they did a three way handshake on it and agreed to meet the next day to deliver cash, titles and cars to respective new owners.

Well, Dave has always been a sucker for a Hemi. But the Humpback turns out to be a practical purchase, as well. Yassee, Dave was stricken with a rare condition that has disabled his legs, and these days gets around by means of an electric scooter. As big as the '40 Ford is, it has a small trunk that was very inconvenient for the scooter, and Dave saw that the Humpback's trunk is a whole lot bigger. And the lower edge of the gaping trunk is very low, just above the rear bumper. About as good as it gets for loading the scooter.

Since the acquisition, Dave has found that the unknown builder was an equal opportunity rodder: the tranny is a GM Turbo 400, connected to a Ford 9" rear axle. The brakes have been modernized with disks up front, so driving and stopping the Humpback is as easy as any modern car. The rod also features power steering and a Sandon air conditioning compressor. The vintage 354 c.i. Hemi from a '56 Chrysler and is fed via dual Carter Competition Series four barrel carbs of 625 cfm, each. Dave reports that it'll pass anything on the road except a gas station.

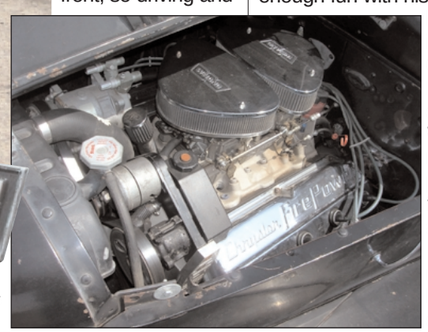
But Dave acquired a work in progress in this Plymouth, and he has mapped out a strategy to finish it to respectable show and cruisin' condition. The a/c system was never finished, for example, and Dave intends to address this issue with new parts from Vintage Air. The original front and rear seats were upholstered who-knows-how-many-years ago in beige vinyl, and needs to be redone. The body is remarkably straight and free of rust, but is in sore need of new paint, and to that end Dave has arranged for the Plymouth to enter a bodyshop next month. The color is going to be a deep green pearl paint and Dave will have it pinstriped in a light green and tan combination. All the bright trim will remain, but will be buffed to a high sheen. Once that's taken care of, Dave wants to address the wheels, which at present he's thinking might be new chrome Mopar Rallyes from Stockton Wheel. Or maybe something tasteful in billet aluminum...

Well, Dave has already had more than enough fun with his new '39 Hemi humpback Plymouth, including taking the People's Choice trophy at Dalton's Roadhouse a couple of weeks ago. With the plans now in motion to finish the project, Dave is looking forward to finishing his all-Mopar rod.

And hummin' a new travellin' tune while he happily cruises on down the road.

Dave's barely started to finish the project and he's already trophied. Don't paint it, Dave!

The gauges are new white faced "vintage"style and Dave's replaced the wheel with a nice wood Grant piece.



When Dave studies the lines of his fat fendered Plymouth, he finds that he admires the welt along the fenders' bottom edges, the art deco stainless trim, and he loves the stance. Not to mention that big trunk. Right: dual quads and chrome "Chrysler Fire Power" valve covers say it all.

Upcoming Events

- **RaceLegal 1/8 Mile Drags** At the Q, 6p-12, Fridays June 22-29, July 20 www.racelegal.com
- **7th Miramar Car Show** Sat June 16 9a-4p,$20 inc. lunch, 800/375-4599 thecarsarecoming.com
- **Pontiac Club Spring Pow Wow** Sun June 17,8a-3p, Embarcadero Park North, $20 inc. 1 lunch, 858/335-3484, www.sdpoci.com
- **2nd Cops & Rodders** Sat June 23, North Park Rec Center, 400 Oregon St., 8a-3p, $15 by 6/3, $20 gate 619/922-2849
- **5th Simpson's Nursery Car Show** Sun July 8, 9a-2, $15 pre-$20/gate, 13925 Campo Rd, Jamul www.eastcountycruisers.com
- **The Mopar Club All American Car Show IX** Sat July 14 in Carlsbad, bring your ride & sign up for a committee!! call Tom 760-458-5780
- **Mopar Club @ Del Mar Fair** Sun June 24 show your Mopar & get a carload in for free. What a deal! call Bob 858/292-5344
- **Main Street America,** Sun July 29, Embarcadero Park North
- **Mopar Club Nite @ Blast From The Past**, Tues Aug 7th, 5p-8p, Park @ 3rd Ave. Chula V.
- **Mopar Club Nite @ Cruisin' Grand,** Escondido Fri Aug 17, preferred parking 4p-8 call Bob 858/292-5344
- **Run To The Hills Barona Casino,** Sat Aug 18 8:30-4p, $15 pre July 15/$20 after 619/607-7626
- **Picnic By The Bay** Sun Aug 26, Embarcadero Park North,9a-2:30p, $25 pre 8/18, $30 after, 858/569-0738
- **Monday Nite Car Club** 6:30p Tuesdays VFW Hall 12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside www.mncc.cc
- **East County Cruisers** 6:30p Tuesdays, Tyler's taste of Texas BBQ 576 N. 2nd St, El Cajon
- **Fallbrook Rods & Relics** 7-9p, Sat. Sunrize Cafe, State Rt 76 @ Mission Rd. Bonsall
- **La Mesa Cruise** Thur 4-8p
- **Clairemont Cruisers** 5-8p 4th Sat Woodies Chili Dogs Clairemont Town Square
- **Santee Lakes** every Fri. 4-8p, $2 for entry
- **Crusin' Italian Style,** Pernicano's, 1588 E. Main, El Cajon, ea. Thur nite 619/338-5225
- **Chicken Pie Diner,** 14727 Pomerado Rd., Poway**,** ea. Wed, 6-9p
- **The Malt Shop** Every Friday, 6p, 3615 Midway .
- **Home Town Buffet** 1st Sat each month 9am, Main St. El Cajon, host King Pins
- **Dalton's Roadhouse** 1st Sunday each month Noon-4p 775 Center Dr. San Marcos
- **Cruise Nite Ramona** 5-7p Sun, Denny's State Rt 76 @ Main St. 760/789-0513
- **Boll Weevil/Chief Auto Parts** 6-8p last Tues of month, 169 Rancho Santa Fe Rd, San Marcos
- **Fred's Old Fashioned Burgers** 1st, 3rd & 5th Sat ea. month, 2754 Alpine Blvd, Alpine, 5p,
- **Clairemont Cruisers** 4th Sat 5-p, Woody's Hot Dogs in Cl'mont Town Square
- **Monday Nite Car Club** Tues 6:30p, VFW Hall 12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside
- **East County Cruisers,** Tues 6:30p, Tylers Texas BBQ 576 N. 2nd St, El Cajon
- **Coco's Restaurant** 11a-3p 3rd Sun 16759 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo
- **Casa De Oro Cafe** 5p 2nd & 4th Sat, 9809 Campo Rd, Spring Valley
- **Cajon Classic Cruise**, Wed 5-8pm

Classifieds

As a tangible benefit to being a member of The Mopar Club, you get free ads. Give Bob a fax 858/292-5344 or better e-mail dgough1@san.rr.com

For Sale: '03 Dodge Grand Caravan Sport 55kmi., $15,900.00 3.8 L. V6, white/gray exc. condition, always garaged/factory maintained,100k trans. factory ext. warranty, new Michelin tires, brakes/rotors,16" alloys,Touring Suspension, power sliding door/gate, roof rack, bra, cargo tray, Marc @ 760-902-4800

For Sale: Slant 6 engines, $500 & $600; 331 hemi, comp/apart $2000; (2)-'56 Chrysler 300's, (2)-'55 Imperial coupes; '64 Dodge Polara conv., $15k; '63 Dart conv., $4500 Slant 6 in car + 273 V-8, all need resto. For info send SASE to William Francis, PO Box 518, Alpine, CA 91903 619/445-0901

For Sale: Dodge Ram, 137k miles, extras, $12k call Bobby cell 760/685-1858, home 760/787-9772

For Sale: A complete 273 cubic inch engine and Torqueflite transmission from a '65 Dodge Coronet. This engine has 70,000 easy miles and runs beautifully. It is complete from air cleaner to oil pan and includes the starter, exhaust manifolds, distributor, alternator, pulleys and fan. This engine has factory adjustable rocker arms. $300 for the entire package. Call Robert Genat at 760-633-4878

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