It seems to me that America's youth is missing out on tactile experience. I blame it on the invention of the video game. Instead of running around in the pouring rain and freezing temperatures in a neighborhood football game on a muddy lot, today's youth, the future of The American Way, sits slack-jawed and doughy faced in front of a TV, hooked up to an X-Box.

He/she can make spectacular plays, never feel the impact of a pair of monster linebackers, and do it all in the comfort of the living room. No pain.

These games generally develop massive thumb muscles, but little else. There are folks who play Microsoft Flight Simulator and come away from the game thinking they can actually fly an F-18. In combat, no less. Of course, the big advance in the video game genre is the advent of the Wii. Just try to buy one of these suckers. They're more rare than a '71 Hemi 4 speed Cuda convertible in my garage. It seems that the video player can control his game image by making movements that are like the real thing: if playing a baseball game, you swing your arms as if you held a bat. If bowling, you "roll" your virtual ball.

Hmmm. Wait a minute. I think I can get behind an idea like this. Yeah, lemme see, now. The game will be called "Mopar Muscle Car Resto Challenge". Yeah, that's it. You first choose what kind a Mopar you want to restore, see, right from the start. There's a '68 Charger R/T. A Hemi Daytona. A S/S Barracuda, or a '57 Belvedere and lots more. Each comes with its own embedded "budget" and "car show schedule". From the menu bar in "Object" you pull down onto "Barn Find" or "Abandoned in Arkansas Field", or "Forgotten Race Car". Each has its own resto pre-programmed issues to overcome. Then in "Tools" you select the appropriate implements for the resto: sockets, open ends, Phillips screwdriver, big ball peen hammer, etc. This is a deep menu of selections. In "Edit" you select the task: "Replace Quarters", "Rebuild Engine", "Install Disk Brakes", "Paint Sheetmetal". This menu is **really** deep. The whole time you perform these tasks the game is ticking down against "Budget" and "Car Show Schedule". The object it to complete the resto with the most bucks left, and make all the car shows. Points are lost for swearing.

No broken knuckles. No lifting or contorting or crawling. I want Santa to bring me one. —Bob

-Bob Gough, Y' r 'umble E'dtr/ Prez

The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

HOHOHO 2007

Toys! Toys! Toys!!!

November Club Meeting Wed Nov 14 The Mopar Club was honored with the presence of Micheal Castiglione, the designer of the new Challenger, and noted author/photographer Robert Genat who arranged for Casti to attend. Casti brought with him a presentation on his development sketches, designs by other stylists, clay models and final prototypes. It was a rare opportunity to hear and see how this breakthrough design came to be. The Casa Machado was standing-room only. Thanks Casti and Robert for a fantastic event!

Steve's Bird & galfriend Vicki

Leo's GTX & Bill's Cuda

Tom's Valiant

Tiffany's Dart

MCRD Car Show Sat Dec 1 Dave Lancaster and Tom Zarkowski represented the Club at this event that, in spite of the rain, brought in a lot of new toys for disadvantaged kids in San Diego. **Cruise at Dalton's Roadhouse Sun Dec 2** Merv Reiser was there with his red ride, along with Jim Collins red Roadrunner, Tom Garcia and his Charger, the Pattersons in Tiffany's Dart, Bill Andrews in his '67 Cuda, Dave Lancaster in his '68 Fish, Leo Montiel in his GTX clone convertible and Steve Berroth with his nicely displayed Superbird, which took a trophy for Best Muscle Car. Lots of new toys were gathered for local kids and a cash pot raised for Marv's friend who lost his home & car collection to the fires. **Streetmasters Xmas Cruise, Sun Dec 9** The previous days rains affected the overall turnout, but lots of toys were donated and the host club had a nice eggs/pancake breakfast. Jerry Keller brought his Challenger, Jim Signorelli his Duster, and Marv Reiser was there, too. The Over The Hill Gang attended *en force* and the people's choice judging reflected that in the trophies. But our own undercover agent Dave Lancaster, there in his Model A pickup rod took a trophy.

Dave and his trophy

Jim's Duster

Anna & her dad, Sven, from Sweden

Jerry's Challenger

ProFile

still crazy after all these years

Like a lot of us, Clubmember Dave Lancaster was somewhat wild and crazy as a youth. And like most of us, his wildness and craziness centered around cars. One particular type of car that Dave was wild about was a '67 Plymouth Barracuda owned by his buddy who worked at McCune Motors in National City. It was a fastback, powered by a 273 c.i. V-8, had the factory 4-speed tranny, and was bright B-5 metallic blue. Dave went for a few rides in the car and thought it was a pretty nice ride. Well, four or five years later, Dave acquired a blue '67 fastback. It too, was powered by a 273 but had the automatic transmission. He gave up that car after a few years when a '68 Formula S fastback Barracuda came up for sale. This car featured the 340 c.i. V-8 and it was connected to a 4-speed. Dave found the increase in horsepower of the '68 to his liking, with a corresponding increase to his craziness. But changes in Dave's life caused him to sell that car. Probably just as well, Dave says, as he hadn't yet gotten into serious trouble.

Over the years, Dave has assembled nice car collection. Except for the Model A Roadster pick up that Dave hot-rodded himself, his collection is all Mopar. It includes a '61 Dodge Lancer 2-door sedan, and seen previously in these pages a '56 Plymouth Belvedere, a '74 Dodge Charger tribute to Richard Petty, and a '39 Plymouth. And this '68 Barracuda.

Dave came across the car on a used car lot when he was looking for a Dart or Valiant for his daughter. When he saw it in the back of the lot, it was looking at an old friend. This fastback was the same shade of metallic green as his old Formula S. It lacked the hot 340 engine and manual tranny, but the 318/automatic combo was just fine with Dave's notion that it would be a great cruiser. It's interior, dark green vinyl, was stock and in great condition. He went home and thought about it. A lot. He finally decided that the odds of acquiring another fastback Barracuda in the same green were just too big to pass on this one. With the money he had for his daughter's car, he bought the Cuda & drove it home.

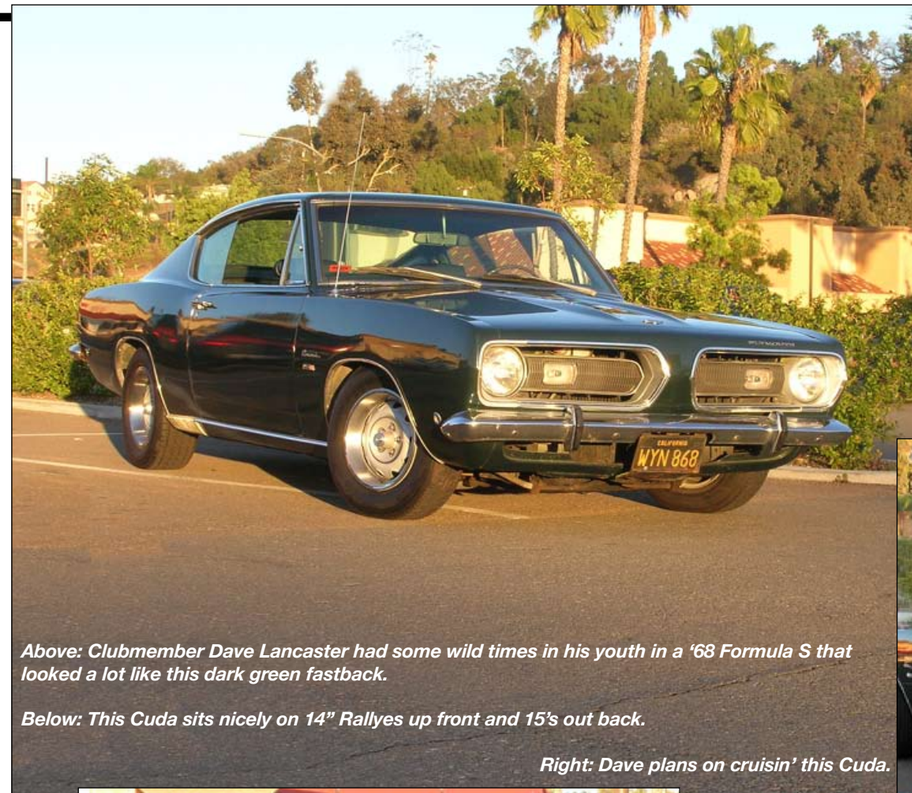
Well, Dave did the right thing and saved up the cash for a car for his daughter. Of course, that put the Cuda project on hold. As did the acquisition of the '39 as well as other hiccups that come along in life. But finally, Dave set out to get the Cuda on the road and enlisted the help of Clubmember Javier Gamala to do the wrenching.

First on the list was an upgrade of the suspension and brakes to Formula S specs by adding a front anti-sway bar and replacing the front drums with disk brakes. The Crager wheels were replaced with new Rallye wheels acquired from Clubmember Ed Koehler. They measure 14"x7" up front carrying 195/75x14 tires and 15"x8" out back, sporting 225/60x15's. It was about this time that a friend called Dave, asking him if he had use for a freshly rebuilt 318 V-8. It was in his garage but belonged to his son. It seems that the son's project went sideways and if Dave could use the engine, it was his if Dave would just come and get it. Well, Mrs. Lancaster did not raise a fool in Dave, and he was at that fella's doorstep ringing the doorbell before he put the phone down. And Javier suddenly had one more item on his "To Do" list.

But Dave figured that the deal on the new engine was so good, that spending a little on dress up items was in order. Along with an electronic ignition, a set of TTI headers, chrome pulleys, alternator and air cleaner, and polished aluminum valve covers were bolted onto the freshly painted and rebuilt 318.

Dave has recently gotten the car on the road, knowing that items such as rechromed bumpers, new vinyl trim for the console, and color sanding the paint have yet to be done. He's also awaiting the lower rear finish panel to be returned from the aluminum trim resto shop. But so far, shake down cruisin' has delivered smooth reliability at 17 mpg.

It seems that with the acquisition of this Cuda, Dave's not as wild and crazy as before. He just looks like it.



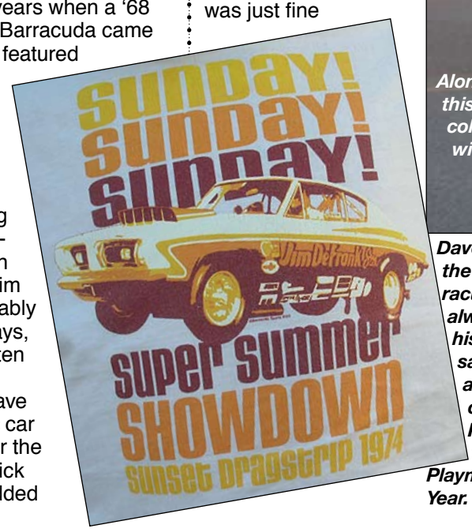
Above: Clubmember Dave Lancaster had some wild times in his youth in a '68 Formula S that looked a lot like this dark green fastback.

Below: This Cuda sits nicely on 14" Rallyes up front and 15's out back.

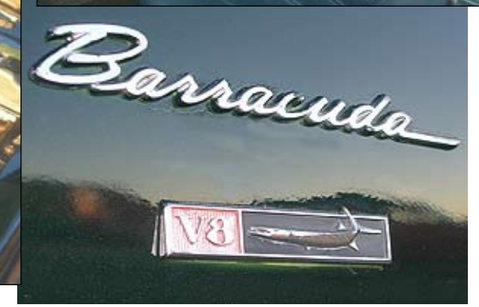
Right: Dave plans on cruisin' this Cuda.

Along with a decent dark green metallic paint job, Dave acquired this Barracuda with a fresh vinyl interior that matches the stock color, stitching and texture. The bucket seats, automatic tranny with console shifter fit in with Dave's cruisin' plans.

Below: Dave also picked up a freshly rebuilt 318 c.i. V-8.



Dave's admired the '68 S/S Barracuda. And he always liked his '67 Cuda, same year as the pink one that Playboy gave to its Playmate of the Year.



Upcoming Events

- **San Diego International Auto Show** noon - 4pm, SAn Diego Convention Center 111 W. Harbor Drive, SD, $10/$7 w/ military id/12-under free, www.sdautoshow.com
- **21st Burger Run Sat Jan 12,** Pepper Tree Frosty 270 S. Santa Fe Ave, Vista, $15 entry, 30 trophies, 760/744-6190
- **4th La Jolla Motor Car Classic @ The Cove** Sun Jan 13, 11-3pm, Scripps Park, 1100 Coast Blvd., $75 entry 619/233-5008
- **Electric Vehicle Dragin' Event** Jan 26-27, Barona 1/8 mi Drag Strip
- **46th Tierra Del Sol Desert Safari** Feb 29-Mar 1, Ocotillo Wells SVRA tds4x4.com
- **Route 66 Musical Review of Songs for the Road** Jan 31-Feb 24 The Avo Playhouse, 303 Main St., Vista 760/724-2110
- **Lee Leslie Memorial Wine & Cheese Cruise** Feb 9, 9:30-1pm Longshadow Ranch Winery, Temecula $15/person/rsvp by Feb 1, 619/448-3215
- **42nd Big 3 Swap Meet** Qualcomm Stadium, Feb 29-Mar 2, the Mopar Club will have its usual swap spot/bugers/dogs
- **8th Goodguys Rod & Custom Nats** April 4-6, Del Mar Fairgrounds, $40 entry, $5 discount by Dec 31, info 925/838-9876
- **Mopars @CSDR** formerly Mopars in May, Sun Apr 20 CA School for the Deaf, Riverside, 909/981-0477 www.inlandmopars.com
- **SoCal Shootout** May 24-25 CA Speedway, Fontana 321/243-5231 www.moparshootout.com
- **Mopars At The Strip** Mar 28-30, Las Vegas Motor Speedway 702/256-8254 www.moparsatthestrp.com
- **San Diego Auto Museum** volunteers neede to conduct tours, do research, restoration and detailing, contact Dean Endres 619/231-2886x2238
- **Monday Nite Car Club** 6:30p Tuesdays VFW Hall 12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside
- **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
- **Clairemont Cruisers** 5-8p 4th Sat Woodies Chili Dogs Clairemont Town Square
- **Santee Lakes** every Fri. 4-8p, $2 entry
- **Crusin' Italian Style**, Pernicano's, 1588 E. Main, El Cajon, ea. Thur nite
- **Chicken Pie Diner**, 14727 Pomerado Rd., Poway, ea. Wed, 6-9p
- **The Classic Malt Shop** every Friday, 6p, 3615 Midway Dr.
- **Home Town Buffe**t 1st Sat each month 9am, Main St. El Cajon, host King Pins
- **Dalton's Roadhouse** 1st Sunday each month 12-4p 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

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: HEMI 4 speed trans & shifter out of a 1968 to 1970 Mopar.
Randy 619-994-8187

For Sale: '64 Sport Fury, 361 V-8, straight & clean a/c, metallic tan, $21,500 Paul 619/660-2217

For Sale: '61 Lancer 2-dr. sedan, Slant 6, clean, Dave 619/3222

For Sale: 1968 Dodge Dart front clip, fenders modified for '70 side marker lights, $1100.00 obo, John 619/463-3545

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