When a celebrity lends his/her fame to a worthy cause or builds an awesome Mopar, that's ok with me. And just such a celebrity is pro wrestler, actor and car guy Bill Goldberg. When Tom Garcia contacted him about our All-American Car Show benefitting our active duty service personnel through KOGO Radio's Roger Hedgecock's "HomeFront San Diego", Bill graciously agreed to attend our show. He'll more than likely bring a car from his collection. But class is what he's about, so be sure to introduce yourself to him at our show on July 14.

But I don't get all the hoo-rah that some people have for Hollywood or super athlete celebrities, just for being a celebrity. I've never given a hoot about their opinions on how to establish a lasting peace in Palestine, how many Third World orphans they might adopt, or how much time Paris Hilton has to serve. Who cares. But that's just me.

And, as usual, I'm not in the majority on this. Take, for example, the cars sold at Barrett-Jackson that commanded a premium just because a celebrity owned the car. The Shelby Super Snake at $6 million comes to mind. Pretty ugly car. In great condition, though. But way too much dinero just because Shelby himself once owned it. Or how about those Shelbys with his autograph on the dash. Me, I'd negotiate $10 thou less because some fathead ruined the dash. Stupid. But that's just me.

The big celebrity-mania corker came on Friday 4th, however. It seems that actor John Schneider, who played Bo Duke on *The Dukes of Hazzard* tv show, cashed in on his celebrity status in a big way. The story goes that he put his personal version of the *General Lee* Charger on eBay. This car was not in any of the tv shows, but it did appear in the movie, *The Dukes Return To Hazzard*. Mr. Schneider has taken it to events and even raced it. The big deal is that it is signed by all the cast members of the original tv show. Boring. But that just me.

The car was pretty nicely done according to all accounts, and it must've been, because it sold to some yahoo for 9.9 million bucks! According to some financial experts, you could buy the whole Chrysler division from Daimler for less than that. Crazy. But that just me.

Hey, I just remembered! My Cuda was in the movie *Almost Famous*. Well, at least the left front fender was. Hmm, I'll get the star Kate Hudson to sign that fender, see, then I'll put the car on eBay, and...

-Bob

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

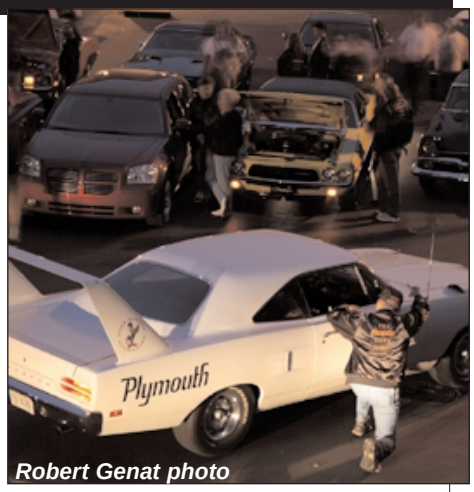
The Newsletter Of The Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

MAY 2007

Car show season!!!



Robert Genat photo

Acclaimed automotive photographer/author **Robert Genat** was called upon last month by the editor of *MOPAR* magazine to come with some shots depicting the "Mopar attitude" for the current issue. Robert called on The Mopar Club/San Diego to provide some cars. What he came up with is much like Saturday nights at The Slab in Kearny Mesa, The editor liked the shots enough to use several in the magazine, including one on the cover. You might be able to score a copy at your local dealership. **Clubmember Tom Garcia's Charger** took a special award from Sam and Chip Foose at a car show in Santa Barbara. That same weekend, the *San Diego Union/Tribune* "Wheels" section featured a story on his car. Nice weekend! **Saturday April 28 Bill Goldberg**, pro wrestler/actor asked The Mopar Club/San Diego for a little help with signing of his new book, "Goldberg", at Camp Pendleton. He towed his '70 429 blown Boss Mustang, "The Lawman" raced by Al Eckstrand, to the base, accompanied by Steve Berroth, '70 Superbird, Tom Garcia, '70 Charger, Doug & Laurie Light, '69-1/2 Superbee and GTX, and Robert Genat, '65 Coronet. The Marines loved it. **Sunday April 29 Coronado Motorcars On Main Street** Debbie and Larry Johnson showed their '70 440/6 Challenger, Tom Ferreira was there with his '69 Valiant, George and Pat Griffen showed their truck, and Woody Widman displayed his '70 AAR Cuda and a diorama bult by his dad. **Spring Fling May 5-6** Lee Meyer, Todd Peterson, Aaron and Tom Bourdage had a swap space, while Cliff Cunningham, the Johnson's, Dave Lancaster, Bill Baugh, Jim Collins, Kristy and Jerry Keller, Woody Widman and Mike Mattern all displayed their rides. Taking 2nd place class trophies were the Kellers in Pro Street and Jim Collins in Restified B-body, '62-'67. And The Mopar Club/San Diego took Club Participation!

Tom & the Foose's

Mopars at Camp Pendleton

Tom & his Valiant

Dave Lancaster

Kristy & Jerry

Joe, and Todd make a sale to Bill

Profile

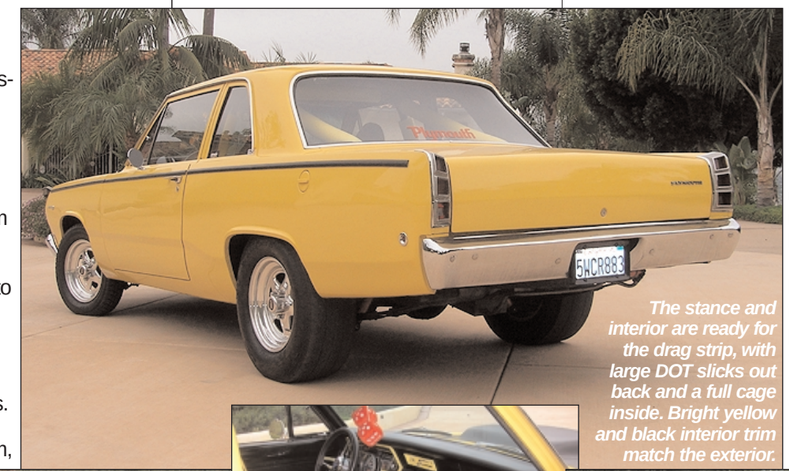
choices & priorities

Clubmember Bill Ruhlman spent a lot of his college days and nights at San Diego State studying how to make his brand new '68 Road Runner into a fast street machine with occasional drag strip duty. True to the original Road Runner formula of the customer's dollars spent more on performance items rather than on luxury items, Bill fondly recalls the taxicab vinyl bench seat and the 2-door sedan configuration, and he figured that the Road Runner could be developed into a formidable car dedicated for the drag strip. But Bill denied himself the dream of drag racing the Runner at Carlsbad Raceway, and sold the car. He applied himself to his degree, and today enjoys a successful business career.

To this day Bill still gets his performance machinery from his local Mopar dealer, and in his garage you'll find a new SRT/8 Jeep, Chrysler SRT/8 300C, and Dodge SRT/10 Viper (see *PentaGram* Jan. '06), cars that are as sophisticated as they are fast. But Bill will tell you that he missed his old Road Runner's approach of raw horsepower in a basic car.

So, while recently looking for a classic Mopar cruiser, Bill came across this 1968 Plymouth Valiant sedan on E-bay. The A-body is a design that Bill has admired since he first saw one on a dealer's showroom floor. To Bill's eye, the compact proportions of the two door sedan always seemed just right, with tightly shaped sheetmetal, a stout B-pillar, and room for a performance V-8. And Bill realized that you just don't see many of the second generation Valiant sedans, built from '67 through early '70's. The photos showed a bright yellow paint job, polished Weld wheels with big DOT slicks out back, and a flat black hood and scoop over a nasty small block. It was just what Bill was looking for, so he negotiated a price and had the car shipped to him from the midwest.

Unlike a lot of E-bay deals gone bad, Bill got a whole lot more than he bargained for in this Valiant. Yeah, he understood intellectually what the seller had listed in his ad were parts that make a car go fast, but full realization as to how fast didn't come until Bill actually got behind the wheel. For starters, the seller noted that the Valiant sported a 340 c.i. V-8, bored 0.030" oversize and stroked to 379 c.i. with a Callies forged crank held in place by ARP main cap studs. The bores were filled with Wiseco domed pistons that yield a 12:1 compression ratio, and are connected to the crank via Eagle H-beam rods. For breathing, the block is topped off by Indy aluminum cylinder heads, which are blank castings from Edelbrock that Indy c-n-c's to their own port and throat design. These Indy heads require offset rockers, not unlike the heads found on '70 vintage 340 T/A engines. Bill's rockers are Indy roller style and made of aluminum, however. Mated to the heads is an Indy cast aluminum intake manifold, supporting a Holley carb of 950 cfm. A Melling high volume/high pressure oil pump handles lubrication. What Bill got between the Valiant's front fenders is an engine that winds it up, puts it out, and takes the abuse.



The stance and interior are ready for the drag strip, with large DOT slicks out back and a full cage inside. Bright yellow and black interior trim match the exterior.

Bill Ruhlman's '69 Valiant 100 2-door sedan is painted Top Banana Yellow and features a black fiberglass hood with a Six-Pack hood scoop, which allows room for the stroked 340 V- at left, topped by Indy cylinder heads and intake, and a Holley 950 cfm four barrel. Bill has installed a line-lock since acquiring the car.*

As for the rest of the driveline, a 727 small block tranny was built to handle the grunt transferred to it by the engine. It features a Hemi-style 5-clutch package and a Cheetah manual reverse valve body. The viscous torque conversion is accomplished by a Dynamic 9-1/2" converter with a 3600 rpm stall, for those high-revving launches. Out back, an 8-3/4" axle has been set up with Moser axles and a 4.88:1 ring and pinion gears. The shock absorbers are Koni adjustable drag strip shocks that optimize weight transfer to the rear wheels on launch.

When Bill off-loaded the Valiant from the transporter, he discovered that all these excellent parts were installed with equally excellent craftsmanship. The paint was in very good driver condition, as opposed to show-car perfection. And visually, the overall package had that just-right muscle stance and presence. But the deep gears and loose torque converter, along with the drag shocks, make for an interesting driving experience on the street. Oh, sure, it's doable. With an aluminum radiator and twin electric fans, the operating temperature remains docile in traffic. But the freeway is out of the question, starts from a dead rest require a lot of finesse, and race gas is pricey. Instead of a cool cruiser, Bill found that he bought a nasty drag strip warrior.

But that's ok with Bill. He's had a hankering for a drag car since his days in college, and it now seems that he has one. That just leaves one question for Bill.

What to do about that street cruiser?

Upcoming Events

- **RaceLegal 1/8 Mile Drags** At the Q, 6p-12, Fridays May 11 & 25 www.racelegal.com
- **Auto Products recycling Event** Sat May 12, 9a-12, Mira Mesa H.S.10510 Reagan Rd., used oil and filters, antifreeze, batteries
- **2nd Curves Are For Cars** Sun May 20, 9a-2p, Dave & Buster's, 2931 Camino del Rio N, $20 www.sdscoliosis.com
- **32nd Antique Drags** Sun May 20, Barona 1/8 Mile Raceway, gates open at 6:30, racers $30, spectators $15, '72 & older cars
- **SoCal Shootout** May 26-27, California Speedway Fontana show, drags, swap www.moparshootout.com
- **American Heritage Car Show**, Sat May 26, 9a-3p, Escondido History Center/Grape day Park 321 N. Broadway, Escondido, pre-'74 American cars, $25 by May 16, www.escondidohistory.org
- **San Diego Car Swap "Salute Our Troops"** Mon May 28 6a-2p Qualcomm Stadium, $5/free active duty military www.sandiegoautoswap.com
- 7th Miramar Car Show Sat une 16 9a-4p, $20 RSVP & register www.thecarsarecoming.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
- **Blast From The Past Mopar Club Nite**, Tues Aug 7th, 5p-8p, park @ 3rd Ave. Chula Vista
- **Run To The Hills Barona casino,** Sat Aug 18 8:30-4p, $15 pre July 15/$20 after 619/607-7626
- **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 760/723-4020
- **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 Dr.
- **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, food/cash
- **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 Apr 11, 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: '06 Dodge Magnum SRT8, 13k miles, $39,950.00, pristine condition, always garaged/detailed monthly, SRT option group 1 & 111, Sirius radio, GPS, side air bag, power sun roof, Mods: (excess of $5k) KW adjustable coil & shocks, Flowmasters, GS Motorsports fan mod & ESP mngt., 180 thermostat, Mopar cold air intake, SRT 8 floor mats, clear bra, tinted front glass, '07 slotted rotors dustless C-TEK brake pads, Marc @ 760-902-4800

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