

Nothing beats a road trip. All right, nothing beats a road trip in your vintage Mopar. OK, there's one better: the road trip in your vintage Mopar that doesn't break down.

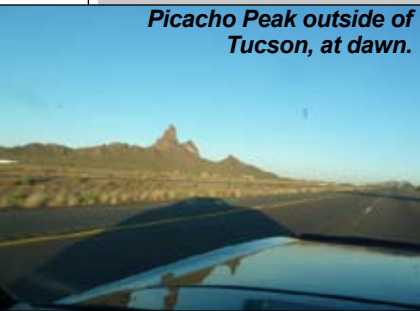
Such was the experience Mrs. 'umble & I had with the '67 Cuda last weekend. We packed up some clothes, some munchies, my camera and her iPhone, and headed east to Tucson. The weather that late January weekend was spectacular. And not just here in San Diego, as Arizona was equally beautiful. I've known for many years that Arizona sunsets cannot be beat, and the desert state did not disappoint on this trip.

We drove around Tucson Friday evening and the Jamieson's took us to a fantastic Mexican food restaurant for dinner. But the roads? I gotta tell you, if you think we have it bad here in San Diego, and we do, you have to see what the taxpayers of Tucson have to endure. Words fail to describe the conditions. I was actually concerned that the Cuda would shake something off. I find it amazing that the Tucson leaders waste time and revenue on asphalt. They would do better if they left the roads as dirt. They'd be smoother.

But enough complaining. The Cuda was performed magnificently. The Tremec fifth gear overdrive transmission makes a huge difference on long runs, and this one was 475 miles each way. Yeah, the Keisler kit is pricey, but they've engineered a wonderful conversion that resulted in me & Mrs. 'umble arriving not tired, as before from intense engine drone. And with our hearing undamaged.

As for mileage, we cruised at 75 to

Picacho Peak outside of Tucson, at dawn.



80 mph the whole way and averaged 14 mpg. Not too bad. Yeah, it's the high test stuff, plus a

bottle of octane boost with each tankful (the Cuda's iron heads and 10.5:1 compression ratio do not like this CA mandated ethanol blended stuff), so our total bill was pretty high. But in Arizona, the gas is 50¢ per gallon cheaper.

Road trip in the Cuda. Wonderful time with Bruce and Cathy. Terrific food. No mechanical issues.

It doesn't get better.

-Bob Gough, Y'r 'umble Ed'r

The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

FEB 2012

Shows are where ya find 'em!!

18th Annual Collector Car Show, Tucson, AZ, Sat Jan 28 The Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts put on a show for 500+ cars at the Tubac Golf Resort, some 40 miles south of Tucson. All cars, foreign or domestic, restored or modified enjoyed a cool, clear Saturday, with three trophies in eighteen classes. A bbq was also part of your entry Friday evening.



Top: cars of all kinds staged up into rows designated for eighteen classes.
Above: this beautiful metallic green '69 Cuda 340 Formula S notchback was recently restored and displayed by its original owner. The option that she checked off in '68 when she was a teenager was the Mod Top.



Above: Bruce (shown) & Cathy Jamieson drove down from Payson in their '68 Road Runner, a trip of a couple hundred miles. Back in the '60's, Bruce had a job as a clay modeler with Chrysler in the Detroit styling studio. There, among the many great stylists of that time, Bruce met Dave Cummins who had a 34 year career as a stylist, including working on what became the Barracuda for 1967. Bruce and Dave have some great stories from those days.



Above: Dave showed his stunning '67 Ferrari 275 GTB/4. What's it worth? About as much as a '71 Hemi Cuda convertible.



for whom the Bel tolls...

Part deux

Clubmember Steve Berroth is like a lot of Mopar fans in that he's always on the lookout for an interesting Dodge, Plymouth or other breed from the Chrysler lineup. And like a lot of Mopar True Believers, Steve will tell you the Holy Grail of PentaStars is anything vintage with a 426 cubic inch Hemi in it. That limits the selection to Dodges and Plymouths from '64 to '71, the penultimate in factory race cars and muscle cars built for the street. Well, back on April 1st, 2007, Steve bought this '66 Plymouth Belvedere II and the story appeared in that month's *PentaGram*. And since it was an original 426 Hemi car, Steve believed his grail was found.

Or was it? When Steve bought the low-miles beast he knew the Hemi engine was not original to the year of manufacture and that it sported a partial VIN number (Ma Mopar did not match VIN numbers to blocks until '68). And according to the seller the Bel served him and several of the other unknown previous owners as a regional race car. Hence, the low 51k miles, pretty much 1/4 mile at a time. Steve figured that since this car



The original 426 Hemi was freshened up to stock specs by Larry Holt of Speed Specialties.



The undercarriage is pristine.



Except for new carpet, the interior is all original.

the way to the showroom floor some 46 years ago. In doing so Steve talked to seven of the eight previous owners, one of whom was Bob Carlson of Montana, the Mopar racer that wanted to see if the 426 in his '71 Road Runner would pull faster times in the Belvedere. Along with the original

Below: Bob Carlson at the track with the Hemi Bel.

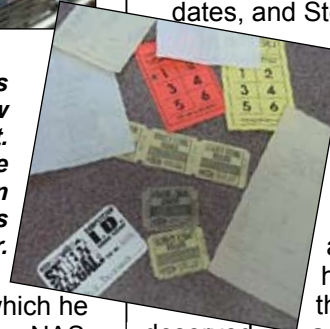
Right: the car's original numbers as they last appeared at the track.



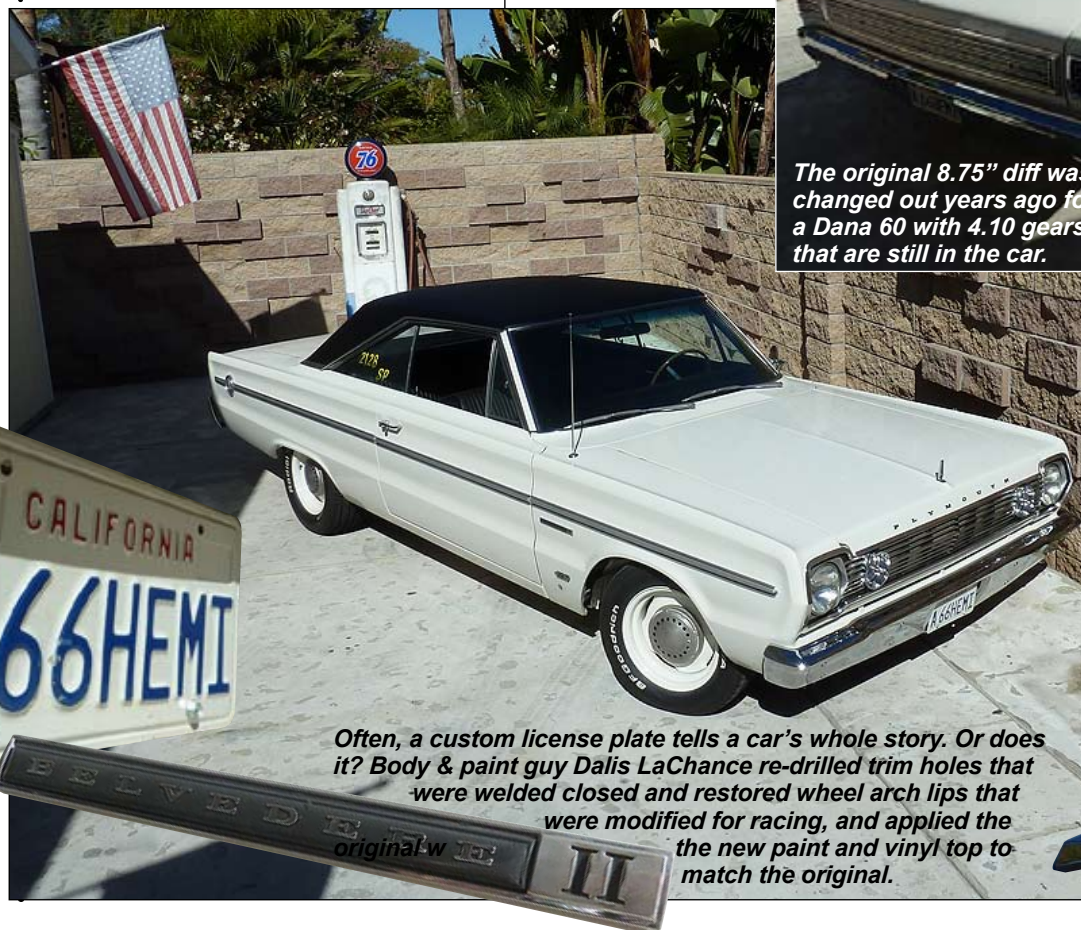
but Steve found a block to Roger's satisfaction. Steve then sent the '71 block to Bob in Montana for his Road Runner. Now, two rare Hemi cars have blocks with correct casting dates, and Steve's Bel has been

reunited with its original engine. The shipping bills must've been huge. When Steve finally had the trans and the engine in his garage, he knew that the Belvedere deserved a top-notch restoration. So, the engine went to Larry Holt of Speed Specialties, who did a freshening up to stock specs plus an overbore. Steve contracted with Dalis LaChance to do the spectacular body and paint. The interior, seats to headliner, remain original but Steve replaced the carpet. Larger 15" diameter wheels were located at a wrecking yard and they are adorned with "Cop Car" hubcaps, a fitting acknowledgment by Steve to the car's

Above: Steve seems pretty happy with how things turned out. Right: time slips from when the Bel was a warrior.



Plymouth emblems, which he removed in anger when NAS-CAR banned the Hemi, he sent to Steve the original 727 TorqueFlite transmission, time slips and photos from back in the day. But most importantly, he said that he had sold the original long block some 30 years earlier to a guy in a strangely named town in North Dakota. He couldn't recall that fellow's name, but he remembered that



Often, a custom license plate tells a car's whole story. Or does it? Body & paint guy Dalis LaChance re-drilled trim holes that were welded closed and restored wheel arch lips that were modified for racing, and applied the new paint and vinyl top to match the original.



The original 8.75" diff was changed out years ago for a Dana 60 with 4.10 gears that are still in the car.



Upcoming Events

- Next Club meeting will be at Casa Machado, 7pm Wed March 14
- For events: www.goodoleboyssandiego.com
- RaceLegal at The Q, Mar 16, 23, Apr 6, 20 drags & concerts, \$30/race, \$8/watch
- Barona Drags Feb 11-12, 18-19, Mar 3, 10, 24, Apr 7, 21 www.baronadrags.com
- SD Auto Museum The Fuel Injected '64 Hemi Dodge of Jerry and Kristi Keller is on display as the Car Club Council Car Of The Month, terrorizing 17 VW's also on display thru Jan 29, www.sdautomuseum.org
- Bonita Donuts Cruise, 8a, 4414 Bonita Rd in Von's shopping center, 619/426-1882
- Fallbrook Rods & relics, 7a, Sunrise Cafe, Hwy 76 @ Mission Rd
- Nuts 4 Muscle Cars, Sun Feb 12, 7a-1p, Girard b'tween Prospect & Siverado, \$25 by 1/31, \$35 after, 619/980-4586
- Cruisin' Grand Fund Raiser Sun Feb 19, 8am, \$20 by 2/12
- Long Beach High Performance Swap Meet, Sun Feb 12, 6a-1p, Veterans' Stadium, 5000 East Lew davis St., Long Beach
- Big 3 Swap Meet, Feb 11-12, Qualcomm Stadium, the Club has a space once again
- Midnite @ The Oasis Mar 2-4, if you don't have tickets, don't plan on entering a car
- Temecula Rod Run, Mar 9-10, 951/44-5763 www.rodruntemecula.com
- Orphan Cars Show Sun Mar 11, 7a-1p, Girard b'tween Prospect & Siverado, \$25 by 1/31, \$35 after, 619/980-4586
- Phi Theta Kappa Car Show, Southwestern College, Chula Vista, 3/24, 9a, 619/274-7101
- 12th Meguiar's Del Mar Nationals, Mar 30-Apr 1, Del Mar Fairgrounds
- Cars & Coffee on the Mesa, 2nd ea month, JBA Auto Center 5675 Kearny Villa Rd, www.jbaracing.com
- Jack's La Jolla Classic Cruise, every Sun 7am, 7300 Girard Ave
- East County Cruisers 6:30p Tuesdays, Tyler's Taste of Texas 576 N. 2nd, El Cajon
- Ramona Cruise, Sun 4p-8, on Main St in Albertson's pkg lot
- Cruisin' Italian Style, Pernicano's, 1588 E. Main, El Cajon, ea. Thur nite
- The Classic Malt Shop every Friday, 5p, 3615 Midway Dr.
- Home Town Buffet 1st Sat each month 9am, 2nd/4th Tues 5:30pm, Main St, E.C.
- Dalton's Roadhouse sadly, the restaurant has closed its doors due to the economy
- Good Ole Boys Breakfast 10am 2nd & 4th Wed, Denny's 2642 Jamacha
- Coco's Restaurant 11a-3p, 3rd Sun 16759 Bernardo Center Dr, R'cho B'rdo
- Ruby's Diner Carlsbad Company Stores 7- 9:30am last Sat 5620 Paseo Del Norte
- Bonita Donuts, Bonita, Sat 8am, 4414 Bonita Rd. Vons Shop'g Cntr
- Fred's Old Fashioned Burgers Alpine, 1st, 3rd, 5th Sat, 5pm

function when it was purchased new by Deputy Sheriff Robert Henshaw of Billings, Montana.

And four years later, the Hemi Belvedere now rumbles under its own, and original, power.

As for Steve's finding his Mopar Holy Grail? His cup runneth over. ★

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 bobgough@san.rr.com

For Sale: '74 Dodge Charger, '73 Hi Po 360, Edelbrock heads, TCI TorqueFlite, tti headers, electric cutouts, 8.75" diff, Petty Blue paint, \$16,500 obo, call Dave 619/861-3222

For Sale: '08 Viper, metallic blue w/o stripes, 6k mi, 2-tone custom interior, \$6000 chrome wheels, \$4000 s/s engine and body add on's including the blue LED's in the engine comp. Asking price \$67,000, Bruce Browne, 619/477-1893, Cell 619/944- 6755

For Sale: Like new/never abused wheels and tires off 2009 Challenger R/T (13k miles; no TPMS sensors), great upgrade for modern Challenger SE or Charger with 17-inch wheels: \$800 set/OBO. Also, original '09 R/T shocks and springs: \$150/OBO. Jeff Walker: jc.walker16@gmail.com.

For Sale: AWB hemi fan \$250, '65 426-S aircleaner assy., \$225, 340 block, 30 over, needs sleeve, \$250, '69 340 AVS carb \$125, some avs carbs and parts, 273 Hi-Po air-cleaner assy. \$150, 318 crank, \$35, Duster sill plates \$20, stock 340 used cam, \$20.... Tom 858-531-3092, email uncltz@aol.com

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