

When you get right down to it, our car hobby is a very personal thing. We have rat rods competing fender to fender at car shows with over-the-top customs, the Hispanic rodder has his low rider featuring astounding hydraulic suspensions and fantastic paint, the street car guys have 1200 hp twin turbo monsters that are pussycats until your foot goes down. No matter the genre of rod, each of us has known the names of past pioneers that give us pause: Mickey Thompson. Grumpy Jenkins. Big John Mazmanian. There are too many to list here, but one name comes to the top no matter what kind of hot rod: Carroll Shelby.

Some highlights: During WWII he served as a bomber instructor pilot from late 1941 through the end of the war, and after, he went into chicken farming. He went bankrupt in two years. Turns out to be the best thing that ever happened to Carroll, or for that matter, hot rodding, because to earn some money, he turned to racing an MG TC. Not only did he win his first race, but he beat much faster Jaguars. He often drove in his farmer's bib overalls, and realized that there was a big pr value there. In 1954, Shelby was hired by Aston Martin, raced their factory cars in Europe and at Sebring for the next five years, and finally, with Ray Salvadori, won the 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race. But the following year, Shelby was experiencing chest pains and in '61 he raced his last event in a Birdcage Maserati. He came in 5th overall by taking nitro pills while at the wheel. But he finished first in points that year as the USAC champ.

But it took more than a bad heart to stop ol' Shel. By '62 he made deals with AC cars in England for chassis and Ford for small-block V-8's for his first car, the Cobra. From there, his Daytona coupes beat the Ferraris for the World Championship and he ramrodded on the GT40 program. He established a driving school, manufactured wheels, and built street cars out of Mustangs, and even an Oldsmobile. During the 80's and early 90's, his long time friend Lee Iaccoca brought ol' Shel over to Chrysler as a performance consultant. Shelby is given credit for influencing the Viper. But there were many hot turbo 4-bangers from Dodge that bore the "Shelby" nameplate. My favorite was built on the Omni platform, known as the GLH. Legend has it that stood for "Goes Like Hell".

I can't think of a better epitaph. —Bob Gough, Y'r 'umble Ed'tr

The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

JULY 2012

July fireworks!!

San Diego Fair, Sun June 24 Eight Mopars where on glittering display at the Fair this year. Bob Meigs hosts this opportunity to benefit Make A Wish Foundation, and in return for showing our cars, the occupants gain free entry and parking. What a deal!



Above:
Ryan
Vander-
Schaff had
a good ol'
time

Top: Dave Lancaster's Cuda, Tiffany Patterson's Dart, Y'r 'umble Ed'tr' Cuda on display along with Diane and Charles Patterson's cop car. **Right:** the Mooney Cuda



Above Left, the VanderSchaff R/T. **Left,** Jim and Kay Signorelli's 340 Duster, at right, the Johnson's Challenger, all lookin' good.



JBA Racing, Coffee & Donuts, Sun July 8

A whole lotta cars showed up this Sunday, including an original small block Cobra, a Ferrari, some rods and customs, and representing the Mopar Club were Tom Ferriera's Valiant, Bill Baugh's New Yorker, Y'r 'umble Ed'tr. Gracious host J supplied the donuts and coffee as usual. The cars supplied the smokin' burnouts.

Right: what would you drive if your name was Lee?



Top, Tom Ziar-kowsky brought his Mustang. **Above:** the Ferreria Valiant. **Right,** Bill's hot exit



No, it ain't got a Hemi...

The times, they are tough. Recession. Joblessness. Downward pressure on income. And gas prices only recently came down below four bucks per gallon. But you know that what goes down, must then go up. It was the price of gas that motivated Clubmember Don Talen to swing into Kearny Mesa Fiat on Convoy Street. Well, that, and a healthy Mopar sense of inquisitiveness about what kind of car the Italian company Fiat is building. Unless you've been on another planet for the past couple of years, you'll know that Fiat owns the lion's share of the Chrysler Corporation, having bought out the toxic Daimler group as part of the US bankruptcy bailout mandate. The head of Fiat, Sergio Marchionne, has taken personal charge of Mopar's products and according to employees, customers and critics, has done a superb job of it so far. Be that as it may, it was decided that America needs a new sub-compact, and the Fiat Cincquecento (thatsa Italiano for "500") is just the thing.

The 500 has been around a long time and it came to represent the third world status of post-WWII Italy. With an engine smaller than that found on today's motorcycles, the early 500 sipped \$6 per gallon gas. It wasn't fast, but that didn't stop Italian hot rod-

der Carlo Abarth from modifying the 500 into a tiny brawler and racing them in the 24 Hours of Le Mans against 200 mph Ferraris and Jags. But that's old history. What's the present day 500 like? What Don found is an engine of 1.4 liters, Fiat calls it MultiAir, that has electro-hydraulic valves, a Ferrari

technology, no less. There are two transmissions, a five-speed manual, or in Don's case, a ZF six-speed automatic. These empower the four current models, the Pop base model, the Sport, the upscale Lounge, and the premium Gucci. Don chose the Sport, between the Pop and Lounge, which delivers abs/trac-



Clubmember Don Talen found a lot to like in the Fiat 500 Sport, including 14 exterior colors. Don chose Grigio, otherwise known in the US of A as dark gray metallic. Don added a red vinyl side stripe, his only custom touch (so far) that works nicely with the red disk brake calipers.

tion control, red disk brake calipers, 16" alloys, front and rear body colored valences along with a rear wing, fog lamps and side sills, heated perforated pleather seats with cloth inserts, sport suspension with an electronic "sporty" mode to stiffen up the steering and shifts. For fun, the 500 Sport comes with a Bose CD/AM/FM surround sound with six speakers and multimedia ports. The steering wheel, incidentally, is leather wrapped and has sound system controls. For safety, the 500 features six airbags, and for economy, delivers 38 overall mpg. Don's been getting around 36 mpg so far. These days,

Don owns a Magnum-powered Dart, and he's previously owned an Alfa Giulia and a Ferrari 308, so his Giorgio Brutini-shoed right foot is probably a little heavier than most.

And Don loves driving his little Italian Mopar commuter. He's found it to be plenty fast, highly maneuverable, comfortable, and has great a/c and sound systems. When he stopped at the dealer, it was because he was mildly interested in the new Fiat and just wanted a look-see. But what he found was a car that delivered an operating cost of gas, insurance and a low monthly payment that was less than what he spent for gas each month commuting in his Dodge Dakota.

So. I aska you, whatsa not to like?



Upper Left: not a Mopar? Better believe it! This under-hood sticker sports the PentaStar.

Above: the 1.4 liter engine has Fiat's "MultiAir" technology from Ferrari engineers to boost power and reliability.

Above Left: a leather-wrapped steering wheel with sound system controls, a speedo-tach-fuel gauge to make a Tick-Tock-Tach green with envy, and plenty of handy storage bins and nooks.

Above: thatsa Don.



With a large trunk seen at left, Don's Fiat 500 is a small car that casts a big shadow.

Upcoming Events

- **Next Club meeting will be at Casa Machado, 7pm Wed Aug 8** For events: www.goodoleboyssandiego.com
- **RaceLegal** at The Q, July 13, 27, Aug 10 drags,\$30/race, \$8/watch, racelegal.com
- **Barona Drags** July 14 Jet Cars, 28 Rock-A-Billy Road Trip, Aug 11 www.baronadrags.com
- **MCRD Car Show** Sat Jul 14 10a, \$10 + unwrapped new toy 619-524-5240
- **10th Simpson's Car Show** Sun July 15, pre reg \$25 w/shirt, lunch, day of \$25, 13925 Campo Rd, Jamul, eastcountycruisers.com
- **8th Thanxgiving In July** July 15 9-2 Elks Lodge 444 Country Club Lane Oceanside, \$12 www.socalcarculture.com
- **Main Street America** Pre-Reg by July 14 ONLY!, Sun July 22 Embarcadero, meet at Star of India @ 0730, www.cocsd.com
- **Overdrive Hot Rod News Muscle Car Show** July 29 noon-4, Manzanita Brewing Co,10151 Prospect Ave, Santee 619-987-5385
- **Cruisin' Grand Escondido** every Fri beginning March 30 **July 27 Mopar Nite!**
- **Santee Lakes** every Fri beginning April 6
- **Chikin' Pie Diner** Poway every Wed beginning Apr 18
- **El Cajon Cruise** every Wed begins April 25
- **Back To The 50's**, La Mesa, ea. Thur begins June 7
- **Bonita Donuts Cruise**, 8a, 4414 Bonita Rd in Von's shopping center, 8am every Sat 619/426-1882
- **Fallbrook Rods & Relics**, 7a every Sat, Sunrise Cafe, Hwy 76 @ Mission Rd, Bonsall
- **Cars & Coffee on the Mesa**, 2nd ea month, **NEW EVENTS!** 3rd Sat ea month start Jun 23 dawn-noon **Hot Rod Rummage Sale**, bring your old parts to sell, J has 2 spaces/seller, FREE!; Each Sat nite July-Aug **Hot Rod Movies** will be shown. Bring your chairs, J will have a roach coach, FREE!, JBA Auto Center 5675 Kearny Villa Rd, www.jbaracing.com
- **Clairemont Square Cruise**, 4th Sat, 5p, near Woodie's Hot Dogs & Outback Steaks
- **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
- **Gearhead Gathering**, 1st Sat 10-noon & 3rd Sat 6-8p behind Chevron & Foster's Freeze off Waring Rd, www.sdmustangs.com
- **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.
- **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
- **Fred's Old Fashioned Burgers** Alpine, 1st, 3rd, 5th Sat, 5pm
- **San Marcos Old Restaurant Row** 1st Sun, 2-5, 1020 W San Marcos Blvd.

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, Reduced asking price \$15,000 obo, call Dave 619/861-3222

For Sale: '70 Super Bee, full resto, excellent mech and cosmetics, #'s match, correct F8 color. 383

Auto column shift bench seat \$34,000.00 OBO
Steve.Berroth@ngc.com



For Sale: Reduced: Like new/never abused wheels/tires off '09 Challenger R/T (13k miles; no TPMS sensors), great upgrade for modern Challenger SE, Charger, Magnum, etc, w/ 17-inch wheels: \$575 set/OBO. Also, original '09 R/T shocks and springs (13k miles): \$150/ OBO. Jeff Walker: jc.walker16@gmail.com.



Mopar Club Newsletter Ad Rates

•Classified Ads

Club members free
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•Club Sponsor Ads

Club members \$60/6 months, min*
Non-members \$100/6 months, min*

* OR like-value raffle prizes or 15% off products/services to Club members
760-598-9809, or djialj@sbcglobal.net

For Sale: '2000 Dodge Dakota Club Cab R/T \$5,500.00), 104,500 miles Mopar High Perf ECM, K&N Cold Air Intake, throttle body, KYB hd shocks, Brembo rotors, Hawk Bi-metallic pads, new tires, custom grill, pedals, Sun Bluetooth stereo, In dash 8 speakers, pans overhaul with 10k miles on rebuild AAMCO. New ball joints, steering components. 6,000lb towing pkg. original grill, ECM, radio. Clear coat damage on top surfaces, runs awesome. Interior is immaculate. Contact Mike Tripp at mtripp@san.rr.com.



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