The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

# PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

HOHOHO 2014

**fi • at**
*noun*
• a formal authorization or proposition; a decree
• an arbitrary order
ORIGIN: from Latin, "let it be done"

In case you missed it, Mopar's parent owner, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), has announced that our beloved PentaStar is to be discontinued. Yep, the PentaStar came into being in 1963 and has lived a long life of around 52 years or so. But the top shelf at FCA has decided that the memorable symbol has outlived its usefulness. This in the year of Dodge's 100th Anniversary. What would you expect of a company that proudly takes its name from the word that is defined as "a decree", or "an arbitrary order". And, as Fiat is an Italian company, perhaps this is a way to keep their zombie Latin language alive. OK, maybe I detect the stench of conspiracy where there is none.

But outlived its usefulness? I wonder. All Chrysler products since '63 carried the PentaStar. Sure, the discreet gold emblem on the lower passenger side fender was dropped years ago, and (in my opinion, anyway), sadly so. But take a look at most parts on Mopars since '63: you'll often find the PentaStar. Kind of like a cowboy brand, it lets you know where it came from.

Of course, "brand" has been re-defined by marketing guys/gals to mean the identity of a product or a company. When I see a part with a PentaStar on it, I know immediately where it came from, and it isn't Ford or GM. My '14 Challenger doesn't sport the PentaStar, of course. But it will. Just as soon as my order for one arrives from Year One.

So, what's to take the place of the PentaStar? "FCA"? Wow. Graphically speaking that's as bold and as memorable as...as...well, "GM".

Anyway, may the Season bring all the best to you. And this year, the tree topper at FCA headquarters should be our old friend.

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

## Showin' & HoHoHo'in!

**Streetmasters Xmas Cruise, Sun Dec 14**

The Mopar Club was represented by eight members' rides, including Prez Jeff and Madam Secretary Julie Walker in their 2010 Challenger, sporting custom paint trim and aftermarket wheels, Jim Signorelli in Kay's '65 Valiant convertible, Craig Ellsworth with his survivor '70 Challenger 440 RT/SE, Treasurer Natalie in her 2013 Hemi R/T Challenger, Jerry Keller who was chased down the Highway 67 hill from Ramona with his trailer containing his Dodge race car, Bill "Hemiboy" Baugh in his '66 Plymouth Hemi Satellite, and Steve Ramos in his Dodge Li'l Red Express. Of course, Y'r 'umble Ed'tr was there to direct the photography staff. But the 'Cuda remained in the garage due to being down for seasonal maintenance & repairs. Hey! When a car is dang near forty-eight years old, stuff requires attention. That's why it's good to have a modern reliable backup. Like my 2014 SRT Challenger. The entry, as per usual for over two decades, was a new, unwrapped toy for the Streetmaster's toy drive, a worthy cause. A free breakfast of flapjacks and scrambled eggs, plus donuts and orange juice was served to all the 150 entrants or so. Along with hot coffee, which was much appreciated on this wintery morn.

*Above: Forming up before entering as a Club with 3 modern Challengers, 1 vintage Challenger, and Kay's Valiant. Left, Jeff, Craig, Jim, Julie & Natalie. Below: Jerry and Craig do some bench racin'.*

*Jim directs Natalie next to Craig's Challenger while HemiBoy watches.*

ProFile

# ...for the love

There's lots of reasons why we love our Mopars. Let's count some of them, shall we? Many of us love Mopars because our Dad or Mom (maybe both) loved them when we were a kid. Maybe you love your Mopar for its styling. Or reliability. Or the nostalgic good times that we had with our Mopar. Or awesome performance.

Well, Clubmember Ralph Vagnone loves his '71 Plymouth Scamp for almost all of those reasons. Yep, Ralph's daddy owned a '68 Plymouth Satellite back in the day, and Ralph had such fond memories of that car that he bought a '69 Dart GT with a 318 V-8 as his first car. But he tired of slogging through the New England winters as a Xerox copier technician, so in '91 he located to San Diego. With no job. And no car, as he sold his Dart before he left. But he soon landed a volleyball coaching job at Kearny Mesa High School and needed transportation. That's when he found this '71 Plymouth Scamp. OK, there is that performance thing, as the Scamp doesn't have the performance of the GT's V-8. It's powered by the mighty 225 c.i. Slant Six. But Ralph found enough to like that he bought the car.

His like for the Scamp quickly blossomed into love. It was everything he asked for in terms of reliability. And when something did need repairing, Ralph found its simplicity made it easy to work on.

The options on the car made for it to be easy to live with, too, as it sports factory air conditioning and cruise control. For bling, the Scamp package includes polished rocker and wheel arch trim, wheelcovers and a black vinyl roof to offset the Medium Green Poly paint. Yessir, this Scamp was no embarrassment to Ralph on the campus of Kearny High.

Especially when it came to transporting the team to an away match. Bus transportation was always a budget issue in those days, and volleyball players are big. So Ralph often had the team of nine pile into the Scamp. No problemo.

But all that wear and tear, not to mention the years, began to take a toll on the Scamp. The vinyl top did what most do, causing the roof to rust through. It was becoming such an eyesore, that potential girlfriends began to snub Ralph because of the car's appearance. And when mechanical issues finally outnumbered the hours Ralph had to repair them, he parked the car.

But a couple of years ago, Ralph decided his old friend deserved better than that. He decided, in fact, that a full restoration was in order. From paint, to a new replacement roof by Tim Klopson of Moonshine Metal Shaping, to engine and transmission rebuilds, and interior re-upholstery, Ralph was all in.

And to improve things for driving his forty-three year old Scamp, Ralph swapped front disk brakes for the old drums, added a Hellwig front sway bar, 14" x 5.5" Mopar J wheels with whitewall Uniroyal Tiger Paw radials, and added subframe connectors. Ralph reports that the Scamp's handling is much improved.

Ralph also had Armando re-upholster his bench seats in stock-appearing vinyl trim with nos cloth inserts from Chrysler, as it appeared in Newport trim. Ralph figures that potential girlfriends won't be so fast to put the snub on him, now.

So, who goes to all that effort on a Plymouth Slant Six car? A guy who loves one, that's who.

It's like the Beatles said: "All you need is love".

*As a young man, Clubmember Ralph Vagnone came west with no job and left behind his '69 Dart GT. He not only found a job, but also this '71 Plymouth Scamp.*

*Back then, Ralph's apartment had rules against working on cars, so when the Scamp needed repairs, Ralph would work on it in this park near Kearny High, where these photos were shot.*
*Left: the engine is a nicely restored 225 c.i. Slant Six, sporting factory a/c and cruise control.*

*Above: Ralph added a front Hellwig sway bar and disk brakes. Out back, he installed new heavy duty springs and frame connectors.*

*Far left: Ralph and his Kearny High School Volley Ball Team bus.*

*Left: Armando's upholstery did the vinyl trimmed seats and stitched in nos Chrysler fabric inserts for a nice touch to the front and rear bench seats.*

## Upcoming Events

**Next meeting @ Casa Machado Jan 14 7p**

- **RaceLegal** @ The Q, Jan 9, 23, Feb 13
- **Barona Drags** Jan 9, Feb 7, 21
- **Mopar Club Xmas Party** new date Dec 21 @ Casa Signorelli 1328 Welsh Way, Ramona RSVP 760-789-4445 Bring a pot luck & wrapped gift for Evil Santa. **BE THERE!**
- **28th "Burger Run"**, Jan 10 6am Pepper Tree Frosty Burger Vista 760-744-3340 http://www.burgerrun.info
- **Jaunt to Julian**, Jan 3, 9am Jim Sheridans house 1068 Farmer Rd Julian Info 760-765-1928 31tkup@reagan.com
- **Barrett-Jackson Car Auction** Scottsdale AZ Jan 10-18
- **66th Annual O'Reilly Grand National Roadster Show**, Jan 23-35, Pomona Fairplex 1101 West McKinley Info www.rodshows.com scooter rental 619-234-9505
- **Dr George Car Show**, Feb 2, Indian Wells Info 760-360-9798
- **Big 3 Auto Parts Exchange**, Feb 20-22, Qualcomm Stadium San Diego, the Club will have its usual swap space, lumch for members
- **Cajon Classic Cruise** Wed 4pm-8pm, ends 10/29
- **Clunkers & Dunkers,** ea. Sat 7a, Bonita Donuts on Bonita Rd
- **Fallbrook Rods & Relics**, 7a every Sat, Sunrise Cafe, Hwy 76 @ Mission, Bonsall
- **Cars & Coffee on the Mesa**, 2nd Sun, 5675 Kearny Villa Rd, www.jbaracing.com.
- **Rods & Woodies on the 101**, Encinitas, 5pm Ends Sept 18
- **Jack's La Jolla Classic Cruise**, every Sun 7am, 7300 Girard Ave
- **Cruisin' The Lakes** Santee 3pm Fridays Ends 10/24
- **In & Out Burger Poway** 11am 12890 Gregg Ct. (Kohl's Parking lot) 1st Sat
- **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 Ends 10/5
- **Gearhead Gathering**, 1st Sat 10-noon & 3rd Sat 6-8p behind Chevron & Foster's Freeze off Waring Rd, .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

**NOTICE!!!** The Club has acquired a new supply of Club window stickers (inside & outside) for your Mopar(s). For all members who did not receive **one** when you joined the Club, they are available at Club meetings, or email bobgough@san.rr.com with your address. Additional stickers are available to all members for 1 buck each. What a deal!

## 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:**'75 Plymouth Duster, $2,600 Solid /6 engine; straight frame; three speed on the floor. Runs good. Needs body work, upholstery, and new dash. Cragar chrome wheels, new motor mounts; new brakes, pads, and cylinders, 81,766 miles. Call Tom at 760.231.6494 or 760.660.3600

**For Sale:** '72 340 engine, complete, not in Dart over10 yrs that was totaled. All paper work on build. I am presently out of state but if interested I can arrange for you to see it. $2,500 OBO. Dave 760-672-4209, dapacific@yahoocom

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**For Sale:** 331 Chrysler Hemi 4 bbl & trans- Greg 760-717-1995

**For Sale:** 727 Trans for rebuild w/ 10" conv., some gaskets & bands, $175. Extra valve bodies $15 ea Paul 619-840-8580 zij576ca@san.rr.com

**For Sale:** daily driving Duster, color black, $9,000 transmission re-built by Rapid, less than 61,000 original miles original Build Sheet. Todd Reed, 858-382-2002

**For Sale:** '67 440 block. std bore w/ main caps, cleaned & magged. $250.00 11" 727 converter w/ flexplate, needs to be be checked, $75.00 Prices negotiable Pat at sixpack3@cox.net

**For Sale**: Y'r 'umble Ed'tr's '65 A100 p/u, new-ish 340 w/ hi-po x mans, rebuilt trans, tons of xtra parts inc. pristine orig. seats, slight rust, runs great, good tires on cop car wheels, new wiring thuout, needs paint & body inc. sunroof patch, $10,500, see pix on Club website Also, '68 (?) sb 727 trans & converter for rebuild, $150 Call Bob 858/292-5344

**Ralph Vagnone, Realtor**
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**For Sale:** '66 Plymouth Fury dark blue/blue (5) Redline tires & Magnum 500's, 318 Poly, nice condition, $12,500 obo; Stainless Steel Brakes 4-wheel disk kit for '66 B-Body, new $1500 Rodger 760-724-1960

**For Sale:** 440 block, .030 over $175 needs repair, rods & TRW pistons, crank, pkg for $400, will separate; 906 heads $300 pr; BB 5 qt. oil pan $75; BB 727 valve body & pan, $100; 11" brake drums & kits $115; (3) 741 diff cases 3.23 open $250, 3.55 open $350, 4.56 gears spool $600; 58.5" drivesaft $125 (2) BFG 245/60x15 $200 Larry 714-553-2971

**For Sale:** Dougs #D-453-C for sb to fit A, B, E Bodies. New condition,still in the box. $475.00 obo. Bert dartman@san.rr.com, 619-843-7096

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