The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

MAY 2014

So, there I was last week. Under my Dodge A100 pick up truck. I had the front end up and on jackstands, of course, as I was dropping the original 727 LoadFlite transmission. It was time to replace that tired old soldier with another, newer model that I had rebuilt by TorqueFliteMaster Steve Karaginides. Yeah, I had a Chinese-made trans jack, so, in theory, my work would be easy. It has a platform onto which the trans is placed that's adjustable for angle, to accommodate when the truck front end is raised, the trans is no longer level. I disconnected the battery first off, dropped the sheet metal "scoop" to direct airflow into the radiator, dropped the exhaust system, pulled the speedo cable (Ed'tr's Note: as in "speedometer", as opposed to skimpy swimsuit), and disconnected the transmission coolant lines from the radiator, and pulled the starter. Then, I had to design and fabricate a bi-pod brace out of scrap 2x4's to hold the engine up once the trans was disconnected. I checked everything twice, then three times to make sure I wasn't going to stupidly drop something very heavy on my melon. All looked good, and the trans came down without drama. Just as planned. However, with it on the trans jack it would not clear the underside sheetmetal. So, I pulled the trans off the jack, and voila, slid it out on the garage floor.

But that posed a problem. The new 100-pound trans had to be slid on the floor and under the truck also. Then somehow lifted onto the jack. No big deal when not under the truck, but I could see this was gonna be a gut buster when rasslin' it under the truck. So, I slid it under and managed to get it onto the jack. And it was a gut buster. But the new trans went in as planned and so did all the other stuff, from exhaust, the cables, the starter, etc.

Tired? You bet. So I next day I filled the trans and went to start her up. No dice. Turns out I disconnected a wire to the "run" circuit from the back of the ignition switch when I re-installed the speedo cable. Took two hours to diagnose and fix that. Once started, everything was working as it should, all gears engaging nicely. However, the two original rubber hoses plumbed into the trans coolant lines now decided to leak after 50 years. No big deal, I decided to get repair parts the next day.

That's when my shoulder went out. Mrs. 'umble says I'm getting too old for my old cars.

Nah. The problem is, my old cars are getting too old for me.

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

Cruisin' & showin'!!!!

Jeff & Julie Walker's Challenger

Marc Viau's Demon

MATS, Las Vegas, Sun Apr 11-13 Over a dozen Clubmembers attended this major event once again, with Dick Johnson racing his Dart, and several members entering their Mopars in the car show, including Mike Mattern and Jim Collins who entered their Hemi cars in the 50th Anniversary of the Hemi section, and each won an award, with Jim's '65 tribute S/S car taking an additional Top 10 award from *Popular Hot Rodding* magazine. **Mopar Club Cruise, Sat Apr 26** Some 20 Club cars met up at Casa Machado and rolled out to Carlsbad's K-1 Electric Kart facility, where 11 members wheeled the course. The VanderSchaff family accounted for 1/3 of the field and young Ryan was nipping at Daddy Steve's rear bumper all the way. Jim Signorelli led most of the race but Larry Johnson passed him with three laps to go for the win. Always the racer, Jim has all the excuses for his loss. This one, "Larry passed me on the yellow", says Jim. He shoulda snuck in some Amsoil. After lunch, we rolled to the amazing Museum of Miniatures.

The Ramchargers amazing seminar
Left: Mr. Tom Hoover signs my shirt

Final results

Kart	Racer	#	TC	50 Lpns Lap	50 Lpns Lap
19	Larry Johnson				
31	Jim Signorelli	1	29.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	Shane McDonald	2	29.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28	Steve Vanderschaaf	3	29.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
24	Jeff Walker	4	31.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
14	Reenice Kotas	5	30.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	Gabby McDonald	6	31.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
33	Lynn Graykowski	7	29.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
34	Ryan Vanderschaaf	8	34.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20	Azjor Natalie Adams	9	31.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
12	Frances Vanderschaaf	10	48.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		11	50.[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Miniature Corsair

On the podium: Larry, Jim & Shane McDonald

County Operations Building Opening Day Car Show, Sat May 11 The Club had 10 cars entered to support the show's designated charity, Wounded Warrior Homes. Julie Walker said it best, "We have our own car show in the car show", as there were about 100 cars entered. Carolyn Mooney's beautiful '71 340 'Cuda deservedly took one of the five awards.

Carolyn Mooney with her much deserved trophy for her magnificent '71 340 Cuda, above right.

Renee & Bert Luna's Valiant

Dan Harp's Dodge

Jumpin' Jack's Duster

ProFile

a flyer's first **Fish...**

When Clubmember Dave Russell graduated out of Mankato State University in Mankato, Minnesota he already had a job lined up. The job was with US Navy. And he asked to be admitted to flight school. The year was 1966, and, son of a gun, the Navy said Dave had the necessary prerequisites to enter their flight school. So, what was the first thing Dave did? He bought a car, of course. Not just any car, but hooked a brand new Plymouth Barracuda. Dave always liked Mopars as his dad always drove DeSotos, a '48, a '52, and a '56, then a Chrysler after DeSoto folded. Dave found just what he was looking for at Southtown Chrysler Plymouth in Bloomington, a suburb of Minneapolis. The yellow pony car was sporting the Formula S package with the 273 c.i. Commando 4-barrel engine that put out 235 horsepower. Mated to it was an A-833 four speed manual gearbox with an Inland shifter that protruded through the console between the front bucket seats. Those seats were black vinyl to match the half-roof vinyl trim. Just the right look for a new Navy recruit looking to get his wings. And the back seat folded down, a feature that Dave found particularly appealing as he needed a place to sleep while on his way to flight school in Pensacola, Florida.

Well, Dave graduated and became a newly minted Naval Aviator. Better yet, he was assigned to a helo squadron in San Diego. That folding back seat became an important feature as Dave decided he'd drive the Barracuda cross country with all his worldly possessions on one side of the rear cargo area, leaving just enough room for his sleeping bag on the other side.

Dave completed his five years of regular duty, with tours of Viet Nam, and then joined the reserves, spending another twenty-one years with the Navy, all in San Diego. He got in a lot of flight time, and commuted to and from the base in his yellow Barracuda, which he drove until a couple of years before he retired. By then, the Plymouth had 114,000 miles on the odometer, and was looking and driving somewhat worn out. So, in 1990, Dave parked her in his garage. Where it stayed until last year when Dave decided it was time to do something about his old Barracuda. Selling it came to mind, of course, but it's never known another owner. So, last year he decided to restore it, a project that was all new to him.

First, Dave pulled the driveline and sent the engine to Kenyon Machine for complete rebuild. The transmission went out also, but it only needed a reseal job. While the body was stripped down, he sent it to SoCal Restorations for paint and body. Fortunately, the A-body was free of rust, needing only two decades of parking lot rash to be repaired and new Plymouth Yellow paint to be applied. Dave re-installed the engine with the fender well headers and dual exhaust that he put on back in the '80's because, well, that's what you did back in the '80's. Dave elected to go with an MSD distributor and coil, everything else is stock. Out back, the 7-1/4" diff spins 3.23 Sure Grip gears.

Dave got his ol' friend back on the road just recently, and is looking forward to cruisin' and attending car shows. There are a few things yet to be attended to, but as any restorer will tell you, these projects are never done.

Which means Dave will be spending a lot more time with his ol' friend.

After all, this is Dave's first Fish. And his last.

Clubmember Dave Russell, fresh out of college and accepted by the US Navy for flight school, needed a new car with proper panache. He chose this '66 Plymouth Barracuda with the Formula S 273 Commando/front sway bar/disk brake package and optional 4-speed. He's owned it all these years, and throughout his Navy career. Above, left: the 273 Commando got an increase in horsepower with the addition of fenderwall headers back in the '80's. Except for an MSD distributor and coil, Dave rebuilt the solid lifter V-8 to stock specs.

Dave restored his Cuda with new paint to match the original factory Yellow, keeping the optional half-roof and bolt-on wheel covers . At Left, black vinyl seats, wood-grain wheel and console mounted shifter are all original.

Upcoming Events

Next meeting @ Casa Machado Jun 11, 7p

- **RaceLegal** at The Q, Apr 18, May 16, 30
- **Barona Drags** May 17, 30-31
- **Run To The Hills**, May 17, Pine Valley
- **May Ride Car Show**, May 17, 8a-4p, $20, 1040 Los Vallecitos, San Marcos
- **Mito Walk & Car Show** May 17, Liberty Station NTC , FREE , Trophies 619 823 9394
- **Alpine Car Show**, May 24, 2014 Community Center, 8a-2p, $25/30, 619-929-6914
- **Fallbrook Vintage Car Show**, May 25, Potter Jr High, Fallbrook,
- **Stars & Stripes**, May 31, Grape Day Park, Escondido, 9a-3p, 760-743-5223,
- **Madame Mechanic Car Show** June 1 FREE, 16840 Bernardo Center Dr. & Bernardo Plaza Dr., 858-487-1767
- **Madame Mechanic Car Show** FREE, Poway Chamber of Commerce's Spring Festival 858-748-0016
- **2nd El Camino Wildcat Foundation Car Show** May 7, 10a-2p, El Camino HS O'side
- **14th Mopars In May** May 18, 3044 Horace St, Riverside, caravan 6:45a, Deer Springs Rd,, leave 7a. Take Deer Springs offramp, go right. Meet @ park n ride on left. 1 hr drive
- **27th Fords & Friends**, June 8, 9a Felicita Park 742 Clarence Lane, Escondido
- **Saturday Night Cruise**, Clairemont Town Square Shopping Center, 5p-8p, May 31
- **Cruisin' Grand, Escondido**, every Fri Broadway & Main, **Mopar Nite June 27**
- **Cajon Classic Cruise** starts Wed Apr 23
- **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.
- **Jack's La Jolla Classic Cruise**, every Sun 7am, 7300 Girard Ave
- **Cruisin' The Lakes** Santee 3pm Fridays
- **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
- **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

CARL PARRICK'S EPIC ROUTE 66 CRUISE TBA date in September, San Diego to Chicago, approx 3-4 weeks. Complete route book w/ mileage, food, motels, E-mail Carl at crp30@cox.net

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, $2,850 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: '71 Charger practically new parts Firm Feel springs, sway bars, Bilstein shocks, Magnum Force upper cntrl arms. 440 Source deep oil pan, many stock parts also Call for details 410-212-1336, email ajohnson04usna@yahoo.com

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For Sale: 1973 Plymouth Duster New Paint & Graphics Rebuilt motor 340 pumped up to 360 (less than 1000 mi) Rebuilt Tranny (same) New tires front & rear New gas shocks front & rear Sway bars front & rear New Autometer gauges & tach New battery New alt. New stereo/CD player w/ amp. & 4 speakers New 355 gears "Only" if you feel the NEED for SPEED.....619-857-7272 for info pics.

For Sale: 2 sets of Accel spark plug (8mm) wire harnesses for a small block, with chrome bolt on routers $20 ea., 2 Mopar electronic distributors for a small block $25 ea, Mopar ignition boxes: Gold (1), Silver (1), Orange (1), Stock (3 new), $10.00 each, 2 mechanical voltage regulators $10 ea, 4 trim rings for 14 in wheels, $10 the set Tom 619-449-9167

For Sale: '70 Road Runner 440/6, air grabber hood, Dana, auto, black, $29,999 obo John Kosich (928) 778-0378

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Catalogs free with order

For Sale: original '09 Challenger RT shocks and springs (13k miles), $100. Jeff Walker: 619-985-7481, jc.walker16@gmail.com

For Sale: 73 340 Challenger Rallye. 8.75 3.55 posi, Edelbrock heads, front & rear sway, 727 console. I have original seats. Reliable and fast. $19k. Tyler @ 619-504-6123

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The Mopar Club/San Diego
PO Box 420076
San Diego, CA 92142-0076