The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

MAR 2014

So, like a lot of Clubmembers, I'm a big enthusiast of vintage Mopars. That's probably so as I lived through the late 70's and 80's and to this day wake up screaming in the night with a recurring nightmare of those cars. My interest is in the Mopars of the mid-'60's to mid -'70's, the Golden Era of Mopar Muscle. When the federal government restrictions on fuel economy took hold of the Big 3 manufacturers, we performance oriented guys and gals began to restore our 15 or 20 year old muscle cars in the belief that horsepower was dead.

Of course, we were wrong. Now that these cars are approaching 50 years in age, there's a new sheriff in town. The Big 3 has been producing cars that kick sand in the face of the iconic kings of the stop light drags for a while now. I was aware that this renaissance of performance had happened, but, as usual, I was late to the party, having bought my modern performance car on the 3rd of January.

So, how does my '67 Plymouth Barracuda compare to my new Dodge Challenger SRT, mano a mano, so to speak? It's an oranges and apples comparison. The 'Cuda was considered to be a compact car in its day with a 108" wheelbase and weighing in at around 3200 pounds. The Challenger is a big girl, 4400 pounds or so with a 116" wheelbase. Both cars were built with V-8's, the Cuda with a 273 sporting 235 hp, the SRT with a 392 c.i. beast putting out 470 horses. Even with the warmed up 340 that is now in the Cuda, it deliverst maybe 380 horses. As for mileage, the Cuda with its Tremec 5-speed gets 17.5 mpg on the highway. The SRT? It has a Tremec 6-speed manual that delivers 24 mpg. Brakes? There is no comparison. Handling? I've added nitrogen shocks and slightly beefed up the front anti-sway bar and rear springs on the Cuda. But after driving an SRT at Laguna Seca last month in the SRT Experience, the Cuda is no match for the Challenger in spite of its weight. Yeah, the SRT is not a cheap car, even in the de-contented CORE package that I bought. This leaves the question, could I get SRT performance out of the Cuda for that kind of money? The answer is: maybe, if I'm willing to do a lot of the work. But I'd wind up with a hairy beast with bad manners, rattles, bad smells and a non-progressive suspension. The SRT is a pleasure to drive to the corner market, down the highway, or on the track.

These cars are just different. Bob
And I like it that way.

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

Swappin' and buyin' old parts!!

Dick Miner and HemiBoy discuss the Swap Meet
Photos by Tom Ziarkowski

Photo by HemiBoy

Big 3 swap Meet, Qualcomm Stadium, Feb 21-23
There were several Clubmembers who brought old parts to the Club swap space.And many Clubmembers, including those who sold parts, were parts buyers. At left. below is a part to a Poncho. It's a rare "His n' Her's shifter. Bill "HemiBoy" Baugh (shown seated, at left) got a lead on it at the Big 3, bought it, and will install it in his '67 Gran Prix convertible. He'll be twice as shifty as before. (Y'r 'umble E'dtr apologizes for a shot of a Brand X part. It's been a slow month). In other words, it was a Big 3 Swap Meet much like all the others. And like all the other years, the Club had it's usual spot reserved, SA-6, under the elevated trolly tracks to the southwest of the Stadium. This spot has served us well in years past when it rained or the sun was unseasonably hot. But this year, the weather was just about as perfect as the burgers and dogs that Clubmember Jerry Keller cooked on Joe Bourdage's grille. And, as in years past, all that food plus sodas and donuts was hosted by the Club. See ya at SA-6 next year!

Don Prudhomme Snake Racing is offering a dvd or Bluray of the movie "The Snake and The Mongoose". Order your copy at www.snakeracing.com

Mopars In May, May 18 The host Club, Inland Mopars, is looking for volunteers to judge their show. In return, you get free entry. If interested, call y'r Prez, Jeff Walker at 619- 985-7481 and sign up.

she drove a Chebby...

..and she coulda had a 'Cuda!

There she was, Clubmember Ann Giangiulio, in the back of the line of Mopars at car shows and cruises, in her '55 Shoebox. Yeah, it was a nice one, though, with a warmed up Mouse motor, modern gauges, a/c, power-everything, nice two-tone red and white paint and custom wheels. But Ann was mortified to be seen in her Chebby with Mopar Club members and their cars. To make matters worse, her husband Ben drove his show-stopping '63 Fury Max Wedge to these events and got all the attention. She felt like the proverbial square Bowtie in a universe of PentaStars.

So she and Ben started a search for a proper Mopar for her to drive. It took many months of looking, but finally, this '70 Plymouth Gran Coupe caught their attention. It's in Lemon Twist paint with a black interior and featured an automatic transmission. Very sporty, indeed. More important, it has one major feature that forgives Ann's many months of driving the wrong brand: this 'Cuda has a Hemi.

Yep, the Holy Grail dual-carb street Hemi nestled between the fenders of this '70 Barracuda pegs the needle for Mopar Enthusiasts' Envy Gauge. This Gran Coupe is a clone Hemi car, but that's just what you need for driving your classic car on today's roads, congested as they are with distracted drivers playing with their social media devices.

But some work was needed before the 'Cuda was ready for the street, so Ben turned to Viau Motorsports to assess their purchase. Run by Clubmember Marc Viau and assisted by Clubmember Aaron Bourdage, the car was inspected and found to have shortcomings in its engine, transmission, brakes, rear axle, suspension, and electrical system. Major remedies performed by Viau Motorsports included a new 6 quart oil pan and windage tray and 1/2" oil pick up tube, a rebuild of the rear axle with new 3.55 gears and Sure Grip, rebuild of the 727 transmission with a new 2,500 stall converter, strengthening of the driveshaft with big #1350 u-joints, replacement of worn, damaged and/or mismatched brake components, re-working the dual carb linkage to factory specs, replacement of the shock absorbers and torsion bars, and correction of numerous electrical issues. Minor fixes were also done to the cooling system, and to the door, hood pins and trunk locks and weatherstripping. Check out their work at www.viaumotorsports.com. Future work will include power steering to ease slow speed maneuvering and a shaker hood.

After shakedown runs by Viau Motorsports, Ann now has a road-worthy and very eye-catching Hemi Cuda to proudly drive to cruises, car shows and Club activities.

And with that big 426 c.i. Hemi, Ann doesn't intend to be at the back of the line anymore.

Arguably one of the best looking cars of the Muscle Era, this 'Cuda sports a black hockey stripe graphic that spells out "HEMI" on its Lemon Twist paint. The Rally wheels with polished rings make just the right statement.

Photo by Aaron Bourdage

Above, left: the black buckets and column shift make for a spartan but efficient interior.
Above: the dual quads got the full treatment at Viau Motorsports so that the linkage now works as Ma Mopar intended. At right, the classic Hemi air cleaner along with the massive chrome valve covers says "Performance" like no other muscle car.
At far right, Ben and Ann.

Upcoming Events

Next meeting @ Casa Machado April 9, 7p

- **RaceLegal** at The Q, Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 18 racelegal.com
- **Barona Drags** Mar, www.baronadrags.com Mar 22-23, Apr 5-6
- **2nd South O Rat Rod – Hot Rod Car & Bike Show**, 9am, Mar 15, South Oceanside Elementary School 1806 S. Horne St. Info 760-802-3811 diacovino@rocketfarms.com
- **4th Phi Theta Kappa Car Show**, Mar 22, 9am, Southwestern College 900 Otay Lakes Rd., C.V. Info 619-274-7101
- **30th Sunrunners Car Club Carne Asada Run**, Imperial, Mar 22,10am 760-356-2173 mike5@beamspeed.net http://www.sunrunnerscarclub.com
- **29th True Lines Car Show**, Sun Mar 23,210 West Bradley
- **2nd Deer Park Car Show**, Sun Mar 30, 330 W. Felicita Ave @ Escondido Blvd
- **14th Goodguys Del Mar Nats**, Apr 4-6, 925-838-9876
- **28th Spring Fling**, Apr 4-6, Woodley Park, Van Nuys, meet at Camp Pendleton rest stop on I-5 to caravan to show, depart 0630
- **Mopars At The Strip**, Apr 11-13, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, drags, swap, car show
- **4th Kiwanis Hot Rods & Chili Cookoff**,Sat Apr 12, 14615 Otay Lakes Rd, 619-723-6856
- **Oil/Batteries/Coolant/Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Event,** Sat Mar 22, 9-1pm, Mira Mesa HS, 3250 Palm Ave @ Hawaii Ave
- **Cruisin' Grande,Escondido**, Starts Apr 4, "Willys Nite", Broadway & Main
- **Clunkers & Dunkers,** ea. Sat 7a, Bonita Donuts on Bonita Rd
- **Fallbrook Rods & Relics**, 7a every Sat, Sunrise Cafe, Hwy 76 @ Mission Rd, 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 begins Apr 4 thru Oct 24
- **In & Out Burger Poway** 11am 12890 Gregg Ct. (Kohl's Parking lot) 1st Sat ea month
- **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

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

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

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

For Sale: (6) Rallye wheels Two in the shop have trim rings & center caps & Rick believes the others also have the rings & caps. Contact Rick @ Ramona Weld and Rod, 760-705-7781, or email 69datsunricker@gmail.com.

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