The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

JAN 2014

I'd forgotten the details of the incredible life and accomplishments of Jimmy Doolittle in his autobiography *"I Could never Be So Lucky Again"*. Written in 1972, I read the book in the 80's, so its been a while. Fortunately the wonderful Mrs. 'umble saw fit to gift a copy to me on Christmas. As I was on my back all that month, I have re-read about halfway through it. Each page contains mind-warping tales of Gen. Doolittle's life, from being raised in the Alaska gold rush, to becoming a professional boxer, to his first plane ride that set his throttle for the highest possible personal achievements during the "Golden Age" of aircraft development and his many important roles in WWII.

An early aviator, the General was a stunt pilot and an air racer. He's the only pilot from that era to win the Schneider Marine Cup ('25), the Mackay Trophy ('25), the Bendix Trophy ('31), and the Thompson ('32). Today, these are on display in the lobby of the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum.

Amazingly, he wasn't killed. All kinds of mechanical failures and weather was lurking to kill the unwary. He crashed numerous times and became a card-carrying member of The Caterpiller Club, reserved exclusively for those whose skins were saved by a new technology known as the parachute.

He attended MIT and he was perhaps the first to attain Masters and Doctorate degrees in aeronautics. Prior to WWII while working for Shell Oil, he ramrodded the development of high octane gasoline. This became an important factor in the Allied victory. During the war, the General's leadership-by-example ignited the morale of civilians and combat troops alike. He was commanding general of the 12th Air Force in Operation Torch, tthe 8th Air Force in England, and later Okinawa. His many decorations include the Medal Of Honor.

Obstacles included politicians, intra-service fighting among generals and admirals for scarce budget dollars, and production of supples. It sounds like it was very much like today.

The General says that the typical American troop cared about three things, one of which is "*that the sacrifices they made were appreciated*."

Something to keep in mind the next time you see an active or retired service man or woman.

—Bob

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

Out with '13! In with '14!!!

Mopar Club Xmas Party, Casa Signorelli, Sun Dec 15

Since there were no car shows that I attended since the last *PentaGram*, here are more shots from Alert Clubmember Tom Ferreira of the Club Xmas Party.

Above: In the Spirit of Xmas, Hostess Kay Signorelli invited her friend Wilber Cotes to the party. 90-something years young, Wilber was a terrified civilian teenaged worker at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He enlisted in the Army Air Force and flew some 84 missions in WWII and Korea.

Left: the Raffle has everyone's undivided attention. Davey Lancaster seems to be sporting the day's date on his left ear. Only Dave can pull off that look.

Right: much hob-nobbing and bench racing is always done over huge amounts of wonderful pot-luck food and drink at The Club's annual big bash. A new topic this year was "What do ya think the Charger's chances of making the Playoffs?" Who knew?

ProFile

wicked to the CORE...

The SRT/8 program was launched in 2005 with the 6.1 liter Hemi 300C from Chrysler and the Magnum from Dodge. In 2006, Dodge debuted the SRT/8 Charger and the AWD Jeep Cherokee. But what got y'r 'umble Ed'tr's juices pumping was the new retro-styled Challenger SRT/8 for '08. These limited production cars were never cheap. I added the Challenger SRT/8 onto Bob's List Of Unattainable Dreams.

But in 2013, under the guidance of SRT brand chief Ralph Gilles, a package for the 300, Charger and Challenger was launched known as "SRT CORE". Mr. Gilles is a racer/gearhead/marketing genius who remembers the Plymouth Road Runner of 1968. A decontented Satellite with rubber floor mats, sedan roof, minimal trim and taxi cab vinyl bench seat, the Road Runner was packaged to the gearhead who wanted to spend his/her money on performance, not frills. The base engine was a hotted up 383 big block, mated to a non-console 4-speed A-833 gearbox. Legend has it that 20,000 were projected to be sold. When Dodge saw that Plymouth moved 45,000 that first year, they came up with their own back-to-basics muscle car, the Super Bee for 1969.

So, what has Sir Ralph wrought with his Challenger SRT CORE? You save big bucks because you get no sunroof, no NAV, no HID headlights, no electronic adjustable shocks, no leather, no 16-speaker monster amp'd stereo. Instead, the CORE gets SRT seats covered with Mopar's new "Ballistic" fabric, non-adjustable Bilstein shocks, Halogen headlights, 6 surround sound speakers, and all the performance of the SRT Brembo brakes, your choice of the 6-speed manual or the optional 5-speed auto trans, and the magnificent 6.4 Hemi. There are some additional options that can be added, however, and my car is equipped with a SAT radio and the "U-Connect" Bluetooth/voice recognition package. Oh yeah, it has the 20"x9" "Black Vapor" Chrome SRT wheels. Outwardly, the CORE package is identified with a black grille surround instead of Argent silver and a black rear spoiler instead of body color, and no side, top or hood stripes.

It's almost like the good ol' days, again.

Only better.

My 2014 Challenger SRT CORE sports functional hood scoops, aggressive front chin splitter, black clear-coat non-metallic paint, and discreet badging.

Left: the Heart of The Beast: 470 hp/470 ft-lbs torque.

Below: the Black Vapor chrome wheels. I will be on suicide watch if I curb rash them.

Far Left: The retro Pistol-Grip shifter stirs a Tremec 6060 6-speed manual gearbox via a hydraulic twin disk clutch with Hill Start Assist. The CORE comes with SRT seats but instead of leather upholstery, they are covered with waterproof Dark Slate Gray "Ballistic" cloth originally developed by Mopar for the Trail Rated Jeeps.

Upcoming Events

Next meeting @ Casa Machado Feb 12, 7p

- **RaceLegal** at The Q, Jan 10, 24, Feb 7, 28(tentative), Mar 7, 14, 21, 28, racelegal.com
- **Barona Drags** Jan 25, Feb 1-2, 8-9, 22, Mar 1-2, 8, www.baronadrags.com
- **27th Burger Run**, Pepper Tree Frosty, 270 S. Santa Fe Vista 6a-1p, $10 pre Jan 11/$15
- **Vets Cruizin' For A Cause**, Sat Jan 11, 6a 1868 Paseo del Norte
- **3rd Hot Rod & Vintage Aircraft Cruise In**, Sat Jan 18, Cable Airport, Upland must RSVP monarchbaybombers@yahoo.com
- **Barrett-Jackson Auction**, Scottsdale, Jan 12-19
- **65th Grand Nat'l Roadster Show,** Jan 24-26, Pomona Fairplex
- **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,
- **Chikin Pie Diner**, every Wed, 14727 Pomerado Rd, starts Apr 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: OEM parts from '71 Dodge Challenger: Complete A/C Heater box w/blower motor, excellent used condition, no cracks $300 Front bucket seats, white w/tracks, good condition $300 Joe saxman318@hotmail.com 619-764-3121

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:'78 Dodge Dreamer, 440 Auto very unique. Reduced price $6900 gslist San Diego Steve.Berrot

SOLD

For Sale: '68 Valiant race car, (big) small block, beautiful car, add gas & go 140mph @ mid-9's in the 1/4, $25k inc. trailer Bill Ruhlman 619-985-2507

SOLD

For Sale: LOWER PRICE: $100 takes original '09 R/T shocks and springs (13k miles).Jeff jc.walker16@gmail.com.

WHEELS PROBABLY SOLD

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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