Mrs. 'umble and I subscribe to a few magazines. *Mopar Action* among them. But this isn't a bout that one. It's about the *Smithsonian Magazine*, a terrific magazine that covers a lot of interesting stuff.

In this recent June, 2014 issue, is an article, "Voice from the Deep", that involves the US Navy with a project right here in San Diego. The project name is Navy Marine Mammal Program, or in Navy-speak, NMMP. It involves experiments that began in the '60's to train marine mammals, like dolphins, to seek out and recover sunken torpedos and to detect mines. The dolphins quickly became good at it. And in the '70's when the Russkis were hiding submarines with nuclear missiles under the Arctic icepack where radar or sonar couldn't find them.

Well, some genius animal trainer assigned to the program, a fella by the name of Sam Ridgeway, suggested that since dolphins didn't like the cold water up there, perhaps beluga whales could be caught and trained to sniff out the subs. So, with help from Inuit tribesmen they caught a few of these whales, and began training them in San Diego to hunt for subs. Because they're smart like the dolphins, they also got good at their job.

Turns out, they're smarter than anyone gave them credit. Over many hours, the belugas were listening to their human trainers' voice commands. After a while, a couple of them began to imitate those commands. It was first noticed by a scuba diver who surfaced because he heard an order to get out of the water. Turns out, it was the beluga.

Big deal, I say. What's so special about that? I mean, mammals like dolphins and whales are known to be smart. And like parrots, some of them can imitate the human voice. As a Moparhead who likes to wrench on my vintage cars, I often talk to them. A little verbal coaxing goes a long way to start that nut in a tough spot. To tune that carb. To set that timing to get her to quit pinging. Yeah, I know, sometimes my voice gets raised. I have been known to use bad words. Even to threaten.

And it works, too. You know it does. Admit it. That old Mopar of yours that everyone thinks is inanimate, hears your words. And when she's runnin' good, she purrs. Even howls. When she's runnin' bad, she uses an altogether different set of words.

So, talk to your Mopar.

Heck, it works for whales.

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

—Bob

The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

JUNE 2014

Whole lotta winners!!!!

Mopars In May, Riverside, Sun May 18 Nine members caravaned north to show their cars, including Jim Signorelli, Larry Johnson, Julie Walker, Cliff Cunningham, Bill "HemiBoy" Baugh, new member Mike Murphy, Eric and Brenda Bense, Rick Bobick and Y'rs Truly. We were met at the show by Steve Ramos, Elsa Kleinfeldt, Marc Viau and Natalie Adams. Winners included Cliff, Jim, Rick, Natalie, HemiBoy, Mike (2 awards), Marc and Steve. Several of us volunteered to judge the multitude of Mopar classes, and the Club received an Appreciation plaque for the effort.

The caravan

Natalie & Elsa's Challengers

Marc's Demon

From left, Steve, Jim and Cliff. below, Rick & Hemiboy

Left: Rick and Hemiboy. Below: Julie's Challenger

1st Knights Of Columbus Show, Alpine, Sat May 24 Tom Ferreira and Dave Russell showed their A-Body Plymouths, along with Y'r 'umble Ed'tr, at the very location of our Club's 1st All-American Car Show. We were skunked this time.

Dave & his Cuda

Rick Bobick photo

Jeff & his GTX

27th Fords & Friends, Sun, June 8, Escondido Jeff Walker showed his 440/4 bbl/4-speed GTX and Rick Bobick showed his Gen III Hemi Dodge. Neither car trophied, but Rick took home Best Mascot, at right, for his stuffed dog, Pisser.

Tom's Valiant

Rick's Dodge

Photos by Tom Ziarkowski

ProFile

Penny, the Valiant...

Clubmember Bert Luna built this '66 Valiant Signet for his wife, Renee as a surprise. She first saw the car at the 2013 Cops & Rodders show where it took Best Mopar.
Right: the interior is from Legendary in custom copper and silver. Below, the Cragers are just the right amount of bling.
Bottom, Bert dressed up the rebuilt 340 c.i. engine with a few polished and chromed touches.

Bert Luna photos

When Clubmember Bert Luna and his two brothers were in their teens, they were part of the San Diego hot rod scene, picking up races on the street and local drag strips. They were, and still are, Mopar guys. And over the years, between them, they've bought, sold, built and raced many Mopars. And they did it as all for one, and one for all.

But that changed as the brothers grew older. Bert met and married Renee in 1987, and Mopars became Bert's second love in his life. Many times when a guy gets married, he and his hot rod buddies drift apart. In this case, Bert gained a new hot rod buddy: Renee. She enjoyed the stories of Bert and his brothers, took an interest in Bert's projects, and attended car shows with him.

Renee started thinking about a car for herself, and bought a rough 1966 Valiant 2-door sedan for $400. Bert began working on it, but the Slant Six had a rod knock. Frustrated, he found out that former Clubmember Lee Meyer had a convertible for sale. Renee always liked convertibles. It was completely apart, but Lee, a master Mopar craftsman, had painted it preparation for completing it.

Originally a 273 c.i. bucket seat Signet, Lee had corrected the years of aging to the sheet-metal and changed the color from the original gold to TT-1 Medium Copper Poly, an original metallic paint for Plymouth in '66. Bert liked what he saw, and a trade was made: Bert's '70 340/4-speed, 'Cuda that needed a complete restoration for the Valiant, with Lee hired to complete the assembly in his shop. Bert did not tell Renee.

In the trade, Bert acquired many parts for the Valiant, including a new Legendary interior with copper and silver upholstery for the front bucket seats, rear bench and door panels. Bert had a 340 c.i. rebuilt with an Edelbrock cam and carb, along with a 904 TorqueFlite automatic transmission and complete 8.75" rear axle. Bert acquired headers from tti that are designed for a small block V-8 in the early A-body width. Turns out that the engine and headers fit, but it's very tight. So tight, in fact, that the steering shaft had to be re-routed with a Flaming River steering shaft coupler to clearance the headers.

For brakes, Bert decided to go with front disks. His search for the original Kelsey-Hayes 4-piston calipers, using the stock 7/16" diameter lug nuts x 4" bolt circle, didn't turn up any good parts, so Bert elected to go with the '73 and later single piston calipers. This added to the project time because these brakes require the 1/2" lug nut diameter x 4-1/2" bolt circle pattern. Which meant that the A-body 8.75" rear axle needed new axles made for that pattern, also. The rear carrier sports 3.23 gears with Sure Grip.

The dash and instrument cluster was restored by Redline Gauge Works, and Bert added three gauges under the dash in a period-correct mounting plate. He also converted the ammeter to a voltmeter for safer operation. To keep tabs on the engine, Bert also added a tachometer, which he placed it in the ashtray face. Bert replaced the stock steering wheel with a "banjo" spoke wheel that has a wood rim to match the copper interior.

The engine bay is dressed up with a polished aluminum Edelbrock Performer intake manifold, chrome Mopar Performance unsilenced air cleaner and valve covers, and yellow Accel ignition wires. For dependability and a smoother flow of electrons, Bert adapted the dual-field "square back" alternator and MP electronic ignition and distributor. All else under the hood is stock appearing.

As for the exterior, Bert added a dual exhaust system with turn-downs, and for a little bling, chrome 15" diameter Crager wheels.

Although the project took a lot more time than Bert planned, he managed to keep it secret from Renee by telling her that the parts that were arriving were for the Slant Six Valiant. When the convertible was completed, Bert had a friend drive the Valiant to the Al Bahr Temple where he'd entered it in the Cops & Rodders show last summer. Later, he asked Renee if she wanted to come along with him to see the cars. And there Renee saw it for the first time. "That car is as pretty as a shiny new penny", said Renee. And when she read the car show dash sheet, she said "Bert, the owner has the same name as me." "Because it's your car", Bert replied. To say Renee was shocked and oh-so pleasantly surprised does not begin to tell that part of the story. To top off the day, the Valiant took Best Mopar.

When Renee said she wanted a Valiant, Bert was listening.

And he gave her a Penny for her thoughts.

Upcoming Events

Next meeting @ Casa Machado July 9, 7p
•**RaceLegal** at The Q, Jun 12, July 25
•**Barona Drags** Jun 16-17, 27-28, July 12
•**2nd Car Show**, Jun 21 9a-2p, Living Hope Church, Lakeside, 9am, 9455 Los Coaches Rd. 619-402-9059 619-443-1293
•**Car Show on the Bay**, USMC, Sun Jun 22, 11a, New Waterfront location on the Bay View Lawn 619-725-6484 858-577-636
•**Mopars At The Fair**, Sun Jun 22, for those signed up, meet at Albertson's pkg lot, 8:00am, we'll head over @ 8:25
•**Big Bad Beach Cruise #15**, Meet at Foster Freeze on Waring Rd, leave @ 5:30pm Mt Soledad, La Jolla Beach, PB, MB, OB, Malt Shop 619-843 3833
•**Car Show, Escondido**, Jun 29 10am Felicita Village 330 West Felicita Ave.& Escondido Blvd.760-520-3698
•**9th Wheels of Freedom Car Show**, July 9, Web Park Rancho Bernardo, 9am george.cowman@powaycruisers.com
•**Cars & Coffee on the Mesa** 8am Sun Jully 13, 8am JBA Auto Center 5675 Kearney Villa Rd. San Diego
• **Vets Cruzin for a Cause**, July 13 8:30am Dave & Buster's 2931 Camino Del Rio North 619-548-5678
•**Saturday Night Cruise**, Clairemont Town Square Shopping Center, 4th Sat •**Cruisin' Grand, Escondido**, every Fri Broadway & Main, **Mopar Nite June 27, Be There!**
•**Cajon Classic Cruise** starts Wed Apr 23
•**Back To The 50's**, La Mesa starts 6/19 thru 8-28, street cons't will affect available parking
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

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: '70 Road Runner bucket seats w/ tracks, new legendary covers, black Brad relax455@aol.com 703-850-3734

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 @ 619-584-6023 SOLD

MOPARS BY JACK
vintage car & truck restoration, repair, service 10% off labor to Club members
Mobile Service
Jack E. Henton
619-454-1396

CARL BURGER'S DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP WORLD
15% Mopar Club Discount on all Parts, Services & Labor To Clubmembers
8355 Hercules Drive, La Mesa
619/463-9321

CASA MACHADO
AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD
Lunch
Dinner
Sunday Brunch
Banquets
Catering
3750 John Montgomery Drive
San Diego 858/292-4716 fax 858/292-7060
www.casamachado.com

Mopar Club Newsletter Ad Rates

•Classified Ads
Club members free
Non-members $10/mo*

•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 djjalj@sbcglobal.net

Muscle Car Restoration Parts and Accessories
YEAR ONE
I N C
1-800-950-9503
P.O. Box 129
Tucker, Ga. 30085
FAX 1-800-680-6806
Special Car Club Discounts: $0-99, 5%; $100-up, 10%
Catalogs $5.00; refundable with 1st order
Catalogs free with order

Mesa Plumbing Company
619-276-5275
Clubmember Kerry Kohl Lic #515449

AMSOIL
SYNTHETIC LUBRICANTS FOR ALL APPLICATIONS
ULTRA-FINE AIR & OIL FILTERS
JIM SIGNORELLI
760/789-4445

Steve Williams
Mobile Welding
Frame Connectors
Spring Relocating
Rear Axle Bracing & Narrowing
(619)988-0778
email: aws1@cox.net

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