The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.org

APR 2014

Sometimes, ya gotta travel to another country to see common sense in action. Mrs. 'umble and y'r 'umble Ed'tr took an eleven day/5-country trip to Eastern Yurrup. Got back on the first of April. No foolin'. We toured some amazing cities, fortresses and little hamlets, but among those, I wanted to see the kinds of cars they were driving. There were lots of cool, but small Fiats, Alfas, Renaults, and Peugeots that we don't get over here. And in Serbia and Croatia, the Skoda is a big deal. Many of these are low emission diesels. And in Yugoslavia? Yep, you guessed it, the Yugo is alive and well, although it's the county's standing joke and out of production. Our guide informed us that Fiat builds the 500-L in the old Yugo plant.

But I expected to see these countries as being a heaven for scooter riders and bicyclists. But no. I don't think I saw more than a couple dozen bikes the whole time. Everybody has a car. And these are countries where gas runs from 6 bucks to almost 9 bucks per gallon. Also, the average annual salary is about what a good job pays in a couple of months here in the US of A. At rush time, guess what? One person per car. Just like here in SoCal. Their mass transit is far more developed than here in San Diego, because the density of the cities is so much greater, but the cable cars, the underground metros in cities that have them, well, under-utilized, I'd say. And rent on a home takes a large chunk of their salary, so how do they get by? The black market and the barter system, that's how.

As for the bicycles not being used, it's also not because there are no bike lanes. I'd say au contraire, except we didn't go to France, and I have no idea how to say "not so" in Hungarian, Serbian, Croation, Bulgarian, or Romanian. In fact, their bike lanes are amazing, with painted lanes for each direction, and a physical barrier between bikes and cars. Like in this photo taken in Bucharest. What a concept. To make this work here, I say have the bike users pony up all the costs for widening the right of way for the two lanes and the barricade. This could be done with a bike registration fee. We car drivers call that a license plate.

Easier yet, bikes would be allowed on roads only if they could maintain the speed limit.

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

It's Car Show Season!!!!

Truelines Car Show, Sun Mar 23 For the 78th year in a row (well, it seems that long), this El Cajon group of automotive service shops hosted their car show, traditionally the start of spring, at their site. Attending, along with probably 200 cars, were Tom Ferreria in his '69 sleeper Valiant, Jim Signorelli in his (Kay's?) '65 Valiant convertible, Dave Lancaster in his '39 Hemi Humpback Plymouth, and Cliff Cunningham in his '73 Challenger.

The Sleeper and droptop Valiants
Photo by Tom Ferrrira

Dave's Hemi Humpback
Photo by Tom Ziarkowski

Cliff's Challenger
Tommy Z photo

Spring Fling, Woodley Park Van Nuys, Apr 4-6 Also in its 78th year, the event featured, as usual, the only Mopar specific swap meet and car show in Southern California. Friday nite was the informal cruise to Bob's Big Boy and several members made the journey, like Cliff Cunningham, to attend that. But Saturday and Sunday was the day for showin' and swappin'. And the swap meet was a real disappointment, down in size to half what it was in the past. The car show was great, however with probably 300 cars on display, including Jim Collins '70 Road Runner that somehow escaped y'r'umble st'f phot'gr'phe'r. Steve VanderSchaff probably would've won a trophy but chose to display his Aussie Valiant upside down.

Cliff brought his shade as well as his Challenger

Jim Signorelli's SRT at the Fling

Aussie Valiant of Steve VanderSchaaf

ProFile

personalized Fish...

Clubmember Cathy Jamieson has always liked cars. And she has quite a few of them, including a Transformer Camaro and a brand new C-7 convertible Corvette, the 4th droptop Vette produced. And like her, husband Bruce who also likes cars. He also has a Vette, a C5 ZO6 and together they are card carrying members of the Corvette owners Club who host their show at the Embarcadero.

But Bruce has a couple of nice vintage Mopars, a '64 Barracuda, a '68 Road Runner, and a '64 Plymouth 426 street wedge, and Cathy thought that she needed a nice vintage Mopar, too. Their search turned up a '68 fastback Barracuda that had potential. Originally a small-block 318 c.i. V-8, it featured an automatic transmission, air conditioning and the deluxe interior package. Of course, the car needed a total restoration, which gave Cathy the opportunity to build the Cuda the way she wanted. And what she wanted was a purple car.

That's where Bruce came in. He knew that Plum Crazy wasn't available in '68. But that was beside the point. This was Cathy's car, and she wanted purple. So, he had Legendary Interiors work up a set of custom purple seat covers with black trim to match. Then, relying on fellow Clubmembers Aaron Bourdage and Steve "Hollywood" Williams for expert assistance, Bruce began the long process of restoring and modifying Cathy's Cuda.

When the body shell came back from the painter, Aaron and Bruce rebuilt the Cuda's front and rear suspensions with all new components and freshened up with paint or powder-coat finishes. The interior was completely removed, and additional insulation was installed beneath the new carpet. The new bucket seats were installed and Bruce had new "burl woodgrain" vinyl inserts made for the dash and door panels. The instrument cluster and gauges were restored and all the interior chrome was re-done.

Meanwhile, Clubmember Steve Williams was rebuilding and blueprinting a 340 c.i. engine for Cathy's Cuda. He carefully had all the connecting rods rebushed to achieve the same compression ratio for each bore, installed a Lunati Voodoo cam, re-curved a Mopar Performance distributor, installed 10.5:1 TRW forged pistons and Cometic head gaskets for a true pump-gas-friendly 9.6:1 compression ratio. An Edelbrock 625 cfm AVS carb was selected, and the engine was tied to a 904 Torque-Flite rebuilt with a low gearset and other good internals by master trans rebuilder, Steve Karaginides. Steve sent the differential to San Diego Gear and Axle for refurbishing, and in spite of the 2.76 Sure Grip gears for comfortable highway cruising, Cathy can lay a good thirty feet of rubber from dead stop when she wants to.

And Cathy's been known to do just that. As well as put some miles on her purple fish, driving to Arizona several times and attending local and out-of-town car shows. Along the way, she's picked up some trophies, too.

It takes quite a car to share garage space with a bright yellow Transformer Camaro and a brand new C7 Vette. But Cathy's purple Barracuda is no shrinking violet.

Cathy wanted her vintage '69 Barracuda to compete with her yellow Camaro and C7 Corvette, so she chose Plum Crazy for the paint. Left: Legendary made up custom seatcovers in purple and black to match. Right: The 215 65/R15 redlines look good on the 15" big bolt Rallye wheels with trim rings.

Below: the 340 engine was made up to look like a '68 273 c.i. Commando engine. Why? Because Cathy wanted it that way. And with a/c, too.

Right: Cathy loves driving her purple fish, even as far as Arizona. And she loves the attention that it gets even more.

Below: these days, Dave lives in Tucson. At a show there, he signed the glovebox door for Cathy.

Right: When Cathy's husband, Bruce, shaped clay in the Chrysler styling studio, he worked with Dave Cummins who was a young stylist on the '67 Barracuda team. This is Dave with Cathy's car at the Art Center School of Design Car Show, where the Cuda took a prestigious award. Right: here's Dave on the left in '65 or so with the Barracuda design team. That's John Herlitz in the car.

Upcoming Events

Next meeting @ Casa Machado April 9, 7p

- **RaceLegal** at The Q, Apr 18, May 2, 16, 30 racelegal.com
- **Barona Drags** Apr 19, **Antique Drags May 4**, May 17, 30
- **2nd South Bike Show**, 9am, Mar 15, So
- **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
- **Club Cruise** 4/26 meet at casa machado a@ 9:30, cruise to K1 karts in O'side, go to lunch, followed by tour of Museum Of Miniatures. Call Jim 760-789-4445 to rsvp
- **Heartbeat Happening,** 4/27, Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Rd. Valley Center
- **Car Show** Felicita Village 4/27, 10 am, 330 W felicita Ave @ Escondido Blvd
- **Spirit of America Car Show** 5/2-3, Lady of Perpetual Church, 13208 Lakeshore, Lakeside, olphcarshow@ymail.com
- **2nd John Pickle Car Show** 5/3, 8am, 111 N 2nd Ave, Chula Vista
- **Free Oil Battery Recycle Event,** May 3, 9a-1p Mira Mesa HS,10510 reagan Rd
- **Motorcars on Main Street** 5/4, 7am, Coronado, www.CoronadoMainStreet.com
- **1st Pep Boys Speed Shop Car Show,** 5/4, 9am, 2041 Mission Ave, O'side 760-224-6986
- **Streak 41** 5/9-11,Campland By The Bay 619-838-2014
- **Hot Rod 4 Heros** 5/10, 7:30am, SD Cnty Waterfront Park benifitting Wounded Warrior Homes, www.stayclassy.org
- **Cruisin' Grande,Escondido**, every Fri Broadway & Main
- **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

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: 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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