## REUVING UP with Milton

## The Value of Time

#### PRESENT ...

I'm having a birthday this month. Not any special number, but the same date that comes around every year. You know those? But this year, for some reason, I have started thinking about my time left on the planet and what I will do with it. I am blessed to have had many meaningful experiences, but those are all behind me at this point.

Some of you are retired and have made so much of life and have made a difference as well. Some of you were in the military and defended our country. Some of you had careers and were faithful employees. Many are raising or have raised children, and some are still in parenting roles with grandchildren. Note: You may think this is a drag, but really, you're getting a second chance to impact young lives, and even better, they are related to you. Many of you have been in volunteer service, giving your time to philanthropic organizations. And some of you are missing the opportunity to leave a legacy. LEGACY ...

Last month, I was at MATS—Muscle Cars at the Strip—at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. It's a three-day event that has many different elements, such as drag races, car show, autocross, swap meet and product vendors. I took the Cuda to show and had a great time with Lee Meyer, my travel buddy, and we hung out with some of our club members.

This year, there was a special reason I was glad to go. Often when we launch into a project (my '70 Charger), we encounter new people along the way who will help make our dreams come true. One of those new people I met this time

The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

# Penta Gram

www.moparclubsandiego.net

April 2022



Bob Mazzolini holds his Lifetime Achievement Award presented to him at MATS (Muscle Cars at the Strip) in recognition of his importance and contributions to the sport of drag-racing since the 70s.

around is Bob Mazzolini.

Any Mopar drag-racing fan living in the West during 1970s and 80s knows the name Bob Mazzolini. His name adorns the sides of some of the fastest and most successful Max Wedge & Hemi-powered Stock and Super Stock cars of the era.

Bob and his wife were school teachers; Bob taught driver's education, auto shop, special education, and electronics. The teaching jobs allowed for time off during the racing seasons. Their teachers' income kept them on a tight budget, and Pro Stock was fast becoming a very expensive venue to run in, which is why Bob started selling parts as a side income to support the racing effort.

This is where I enter the Mazzolini story. I was looking for Hemi parts, and Lee took me to Bob's shop in Riverside. We spent two hours there, talking about his life and of course, Hemi parts.

One thing I have heard from him, over and over again in the last two months was, "If it wasn't for the people, I never would have stuck to it . . . It's about the family and the relationships. That is what makes it all worth it." You've heard it

before from me as well: "It's not about the cars, it's about the people."

The last time I was at his shop, Bob said he was going to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at MATS. So sure enough, between one of the practice sessions, they stopped the races and honored him. He gave a little speech there at the starting line and spoke about the drag-racing family.

#### FUTURE ...

Now I'm going to make the leap to you and me. We often hear these stories of people who did great things and think we will never make that kind of difference, or, it's too late for me. I actually believe that's a lie we tell ourselves. I don't want to be morbid, but it is never too late, 'til we breathe our last, to give of ourselves to others.

One of the attractive qualities about the Mopar Club of San Diego is that we work hard each year for the benefit of our local military families. Our All-American Car Show (AACS) always ends up being a beautiful event as a result of many of us working together for a common goal.

I would like to expand our opportuni-

## MOPAR CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

**EST. July 1993** 

#### **Officers**

**President** — Milton Karahadian miltonkarahadian@pointloma.edu

**Vice President** — Jonathan Gbenekama gbenekama@gmail.com

**Treasurer** — Debbie Gough treasurer@moparclubsandiego.com

**Secretary** — Julie Walker secretary@moparaclubsandiego.com

#### **Chairs**

All-American Car Show Jeff Walker & Larry Johnson jeff@wc-ms.com

Car Club Council Rep Bill Baugh

> Cruisemeister Jim Signorelli

#### **Information Services**

#### Coordinator

Melissa Gbenekama play4health@hotmail.com

**Webmaster** — Paul Polentz webmaster@moparclubsandiego.net

**Newsletter** — Julie Walker editor@moparclubsandiego.com

Facebook — To be determined

Instagram — Melissa Gbenekama play4health@hotmail.com

#### Revving Up with Milton

Continued from page one

ties this year to another event where we can give of ourselves and make a difference. One idea is to support Inland Mopars' annual toy drive for military families at Fort Irwin at Christmas time. Or partner with Hot Rod Holly and really support her Christmas drive that provdes needed items to a downtown homeless shelter. There is always a place to serve, and I want our club to be known as a giving club.

#### BACK TO THE PRESENT

We've all been so blessed to be living in a great country that has made it a priority to help others. I know that many of you are involved in churches, service organizations, other activities, etc. But what is consistent in organizations is the "80-20 rule." That means that 80% of the people in the organization benefit from the 20% who are doing all the work. I would like to see that percentage flip in ours. with at least 80% of the people willing to do 100% of the work. I know we have a lot of good people in our club who are eager to serve and do serve. So here are some opportunities to serve:

First, just around the corner is our July 16 car show at Seaport Village. We are going to need all hands on deck to pull off a great show at this new location in "America's Finest City." It's an opportunity to really showcase our club, it's good for showcasing our members and how we serve others. Secondly, if we are going to do something at Christmas time for others, we are going to need more

members to step into leadership roles.

Bob Mazzolini was a teacher, but at the same time, he changed Pro Stock. As you and I look around, what are we going to do with the rest of our time?



Bob Mazzolini and '67 Belvedere 426 Hemi A/SA on the track back in the day, and featured on Chrysler Power's cover in 2018, where Mazzolini's touted as a Mopar Hero.

Website: moparclubsandiego.net
Mailing Address:

PO Box 420076 San Diego CA 92142-0076

Mopar Club of San Diego is a member of the San Diego Association of Car Clubs

### Stop dreaming: heed the call!

By Julie Walker

For those of a certain age, Mother is calling. The Mother Road, that is. For us, there's nothing more iconic than Route 66, also known as the Mother Road or as Main Street America: the highway from Illinois to California that for decades served the many thousands migrating west, looking for a fresh start after harsh times.

The 2,448-mile highway was established in 1926 and decommissioned in 1985. But that wasn't the end of the road for the historic Route 66, made even more famous by "Route 66," the very popular 1960-64 TV show featuring Buz and Tod, two freewheeling guys with wanderlust and a '61 Corvette convertible.

When Route 66 was decommisioned and the highway markers came down, the hue and cry went up. The highway markers were returned, the small towns along the way got a new lease, and today, Mother is still calling those who have dreamed of traveling the iconic route back to a simpler time. And in 2006, Pixar's animated movie, "Cars," featuring a race car that lost its way and found its heart, brought attention to Route 66 for those who are not of a certain age.

Mopar SD Club member Carl Parrick drove Route 66 in his 1968 Plymouth

GTX eight years ago, accompanied by his good friend, George. Others who joined them and traveling the first part of Route 66, from Barstow to Albuquerque, were longtime MCSD members Kathy and Bruce Jamieson, each in their own Corvette, and club member Holly Ansman and two friends in a motorhome. Then it was just Carl, George and the GTX—from Albuquerque to Chicago, where George flew home after falling ill. Carl then made the return trip from Illinois to California solo, discovering and exploring what he missed during the first half of his trip.

He has photos aplenty and enjoys sharing the stories from that trip down memory lane and back, one that took him through small towns that have retained their vintage feel of days gone by, with quirky tourist sights, old-time storefronts, motels & cafes, vintage signage & gas pumps, etc. All along Route 66, "everywhere we went, everyone wanted to look at the car," he said, "and 90% didn't know the GTX."

Now Carl's ready to do it again. For him, Mother is calling once more. He's hoping to hit the road in late August/early September, and he's inviting anyone interested to join him...either part way or the entire Mother Road and back, the latter about a three-week adventure.

It's better to look back on life and say, "I can't believe I did that" than to look back and say, "I wish I did that."

-Unknown

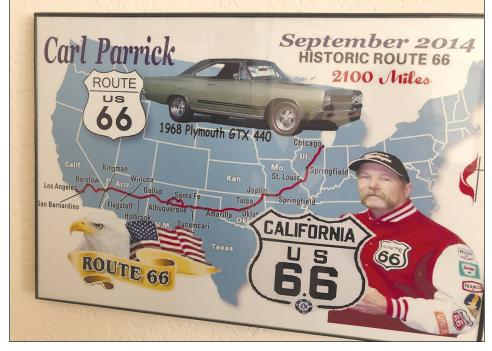
For the trip in 2014, Carl spent a year meticulously preparing for his journey, researching and studying to learn everything: mileage segments, what there was to see and the funky must-sees, where to stay, best places to eat—day by day. And he prepared a booklet with all that info, shared with his fellow travelers. It worked well for the group.

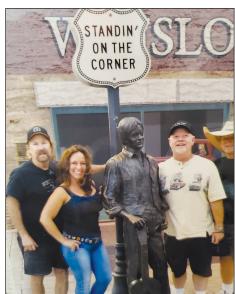
The goal was to travel 200-225 miles a day, at 60-65mph. Each morning, the road-trippers discussed general plans for the day. Plenty of time always was available for individual and/or group meandering and exploring, with everyone ending up at the same place for the night. Many photos taken of the iconic, the quirky, the oddball and the just-plain-weird, all to be found along the route.

Carl kept records of every cent he spent during his three weeks on the Mother Road. Total cost: \$2,930; just less than \$1,000 a week. Mind you, this was in 2014. He spent \$1,500 on premium gas,

Continued on next page







Above, Carl, Holly and travelmates "standin' on the corner in Winslow, Arizona," and left: a tribute to Carl's Route 66 trip created for him by his students.

Continued from previous page

at \$3.50-\$5 per gallon, putting 417.9 gallons (yep, he *was* exact!) into the GTX and averaging 13 miles per gallon. Lodging cost him \$650 (he and George shared a room and its cost for the first half of the trip); food: \$380; and miscellaneous expenses (primarily souvenirs, but some entry fees,etc) totaled \$400.

He's hoping others hear the call of this celebrated road and want to answer that call with him this year. Of course, this trip will cost more than it did in 2014, but he still says it's well worth doing. And even though Carl says driving the GTX was what made the first Route 66 run extra special, he won't be doing it this time. "At my age now, eight years later, I'm not driving the GTX. I'm taking my

Challenger." And of course it helps that his 2020 Challenger gets far better mileage than the GTX's 13 mpg.

He'll have an "interest" signup sheet at the club's April 13 meeting for those who might want to heed the call to "Get your kicks on Route 66." He's in the process of updating his 2014 Route 66 booklet now, so that will

in the process of updating his 2014 Route 66 booklet no be already done for you. Alas, his friend, George, died not long after



new passenger.
"People want
to go, then they
don't make the
commitment,"
he laments. "It's
really an amazing
trip. I'd rather do
that than go to

Europe. I've been on a lot of trips and to a lot of places in the world, but this has been my favorite trip. People were super, the places were just amazing, the road was fantastic. It was most rewarding to me because I love nostalgia, and I love cars." And it brought back a lot of memories for him, taking him back to when Route 66 was the main highway crossing the US and the road

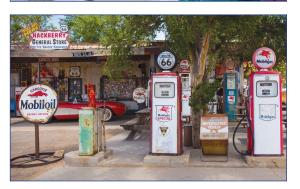
his family several times traveled during his childhood to visit his grandmother, now long gone but whose house is still standing along Route 66 to this day.

"Before we're gone, we should see how America was. If you like nostalgia and history, it's a great trip," Carl says. "Go as far as you want: two days, four days, halfway (to Chicago, which is Adrian, TX) or the entire way and back."

Anyone interested in contacting Carl: 30cp30@gmail.com or (619) 227-1567

Above, Carl Parrick with his Route 66 scrapbook, and Carl, Holly and George at the mid-point, in Adrian, TX. On the right, from the top down, photos from the LegendsofAmerica.com/route-66/ website: the Roadrunner in Seligman, AZ (with the real deal in the window at left); vintage soda fountain in Pontiac, IL; the general store in Hackberry, AZ; the quirky Blue Whale in Oklahoma; and the iconic sign in front of the National Route 66 Museum in Elk City, OK.







# MEMBER News Bits.





Debbie and Bob Gough traveled to Arizona early last month, waking up one day to something they weren't all that familiar with: *SNOW*. They also caught up with club members Marie Roecker and Lee DeTro, above, and Dan and Paula Smith, below.





Left: Milton Karahadian says the deconstruction of his recenly acquired '70 Charger is done—he hopes.

Right: In March, George Bittle (Challenger), Woody Widman (Cuda) and Steve VanderSchaaf (B5 blue Hellcat) made a run to Santa Ysabel, stopping at Josie's Hideout for lunch. Below, members making a run to Fallbrook included Steve VanderSchaaf, Ray Stinson (Challenger), Curt Bogdan (Magnum), Woody Widman (Charger Super Bee) and George Bittle (Barracuda), the latter two exercising other Mopars.



# SHOWING & Sharing



Club winners at the March 20 Motors for Music show at San Marcos High were, from left: Julie Walker: 1st-Best 80s-90s; John Joseph, 1st-Best 70s; and Rick Bobick, 2nd-Best 60s.



Above, Rick Bobick's '65 Coronet and Bobick with his trophy.

#### **MOTORS FOR MUSIC: MARCH 20**



John Joseph and his '70 Charger



Above: Julie Walker with her '92 Toyota Supra Turbo that won Best 80s-90s.



Left: Dave Russell and his '66 Barracuda, which he bought new.





with his '65 A990 Belvedere (right). Other club members attending MATS included Lee DeTro and Marie Roecker, Joe Bourdage,

Woody Widman, Marv Reiser and Bob Martello.

# Cruise & Picnic

Del Mar to Liberty Station - March 26





Debbie Gough and Chavonne Karahadian







Jonathan Gbenekama and Milton Karahadian





Bob Gough's and Jim Bowen's Barracudas



Matt Cantor and his Challenger



Signorellis' Challenger and Dave Russell's Barracuda



Carl Parrick's Challenger and Gbenekamas' Cuda



Domens' and Walkers' Challengers



Jim Bowen and Jonathan Gbenekama



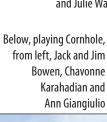
Milton Karahadian and Jeff Walker



Left: Matt Cantor, Rhonda Pardue and Kathy Silcott.

Above: Kathleen and Matt Domen, and right: Melissa and little Ruby Gbenekama









# LET'S GO & show.

#### **CAR SHOWS / EVENTS**

Check for event updates & additions:

www.sandiegoassociationofcarclubs.org (car club council) Facebook: @San Diego Association of Car Clubs www.socalcarculture.com/events.htm

Sat Apr. 23: Ramona Senior Center Car Show, 10am-2pm

Grace Community Church, 1234 Barger Place, Ramona

Sat/Sun Apr 23-24 Spring Fling Mopar Show & Swap Meet) 7am-4pm

Woodley Park in Van Nuys: cpwclub.com

Sat/Sun Apr 23-24: Concourse d' Elegance, La Jolla VIEW ONLY / Coast Boulevard / Ellen Browning Scripps Park

Sun Apr. 24: Heartbeat Happening, 9am-3pm

Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Wood Valley Rd, Valley Center https://theheartbeatclassics.com/car-show

Sun May 1: Motorcars on Main, 10am-3pm

1100 Orange Ave., Coronado. \$40 by April 23; \$45 after coronadomainstreet.com

Mon May 2: SD Assoc. of Car Clubs meet-up, 5-7pm

Fosters Freeze parking lot, 5129 Waring Road, SD / Free

Sat, May 7: Shifting Gears Pt. Loma Road Rally

\$75 entry fee due by April 25 — spaces limited Benefits SD Automotive Museum Info and reg: sdautomuseum.org

Sat/Sun, May 6-7: Streak 48/49, 7am-5pm

Campland by the Bay / Hosted by the Over the Hill Gang Info: bobharry@cox.net / Bob Harrington: 619-838-2266

Sat, May 14: Wildcat Run car/bike/boat show, 8am-1pm

El Camino High School, 400 Rancho Del Oro Dr., Oceanside ecwildcatfoundation.org

\*\*\*\* Sun May 15: Mopars In May, 9am-3:30pm

Southwest Carpenters' Training Ctr, 3250 Shelby St, Ontario <a href="https://www.inlandmopars.com">www.inlandmopars.com</a>

IF WILLING TO JUDGE, NO ENTRY FEE (see Julie or Jeff Walker) Caravan to be set up

#### Photos in this issue provided by:

Bill Baugh, George Bittle, Ben Giangiulio, Bob Gough, Debbie Gough, Milton Karahadian, Carl Parrick, Kathy Silcott and Julie Walker Sat, May 21: Run to the Hills Car Show, 10am-2pm

Pine Valley — Info: Cindy 619-504-2882

\*\*\*\* Sun May 22: Mopar Day

at Pacific Islander Beer Company, 1-5pm

8665 Argent Street, Santee — Info: Sherri 619-253-0524 Mopar Club SD Mopars will be the featured. Must register by

text: (619) 253-0524— SPACE IS LIMITED

Sun May 29: Fallbrook Car Show, 10am-3pm

Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Wood Valley Rd, Valley Center www.fallbrookvintagecarclub.org

Mon, May 30 (Memorial Day): Auto Swap and Car Show, 6:30am-1pm

Buy/Sell/Show/Swap — Santee Drive-In carshowcalifornia.com

Sat, Jun 4: VA of North County Car Show, 9am-1pm

1617 Mission Avenue, Oceanside info@vanc.me

Sat June 11: Fords & Friends Show, 9am-2pm

Grape Day Park, Escondido

Benefits Meals on Wheels, Armed Services YMCA \$30 registration by May 28 / \$35 after and day-of-show www.pickupsunlimtedsandiego.com

Sun, Jun 19: Fathers Day Show at Belmont Park, 10am-4pm

3146 Mission Blvd, Pacific Beach — 619-201-8207

Mon, Jul 4: Wheels of Freedom Motor Show, 9am-2pm

Hosted by Poway Cruisers; part of the Ranch Bernardo Spirit of the Fourth celebration. No fee, but MUST be pre-reg'd: limited to 130 entries — call 858-748-5346

\*\*\*\* Sat Jul. 16: MCSD's All-American Car Show, 9am-3pm

Seaport Village (Embarcadero North)

Setup begins at 6am, participants enter beginning at 8am

Sat, Aug 13: Main Street America, 10am-3pm

Seaport Villalge/Embarcadero North. Registration info available in May

Sat Aug. 27 Christian Rods & Customs, 9am-2pm

9400 Campo Road, Spring Valley / benefits Restoration Ranch www.christianrodsandcustoms.com

CARS & COFFEE listings are on the next page . . .

## Remembering Hal Sullivan

(Note: Thank you to Ben Giangiulio for providing the following information)

Hal Sullivan, who with his wife, Carolyn, were longtime Mopar enthusiasts and were Mopar Club SD members before moving to Idaho three years ago, died on Feb. 3. The cause of death was listed as heart failure, which happened not long after he had returned home after a long hospitalization due to Covid.

He was a car afficionado who was always eager to engage in a conversation about cars, and he drove one of the first-generation Funny Cars, a Camaro known as "Stick City." He had a diversified career, including being a drag racer and sales manager for Hooker Headers. He was known as a strong leader, good at motivating employees. At one time, he had his own business, advising companies on efficiency and on how to advertise their products. Before moving to Idaho, he and Carolyn managed Rancho Soledad Nursery in Rancho Santa Fe.

Hal was an inspiration to our club and enthusiastic about Mopars. He and Carolyn were among the first in the club to have Challenger Hellcats—his and hers—as well as a Challenger SRT Demon and a 354 Supercharged Drag Pak Challenger race car. Carolyn was a good student of Hal's, running her Hellcat at the drags: time 11.20 ET at 128 mph with a .014 reaction time.

He also will be remembered willing to give of his time and efforts, and many of our members will recall how he sponsored a fundraising concert for the Elks Club in Escondido, a concert that featured The

Vogues, one of the popular groups of the 60s with a long list of hits, including "Turn Around, Look at Me" and "My Special Angel." Many of our members attended.

Carolyn is selling two of his cars: the Challenger Drag Pak car and a more recently acquired original '66 Dodge Hemi Charger he had been working on before his death (See the Marketplace in this issue).

Hal, in his "Stick City" Camaro in his early racing days



Hal's 354 Supercharged Drag Pak Challenger race car is for sale: See page 12



#### **CARS & COFFEE**

Every Saturday: Mopar Club San Diego meet-ups at "The Slab," 6:45pm-9pm at The Diane Center at Clairemont Mesa Blvd & Diane Avenue, Clairemont. Behind Starbucks, near a huge square slab; Carmen's Mexican restaurant nearby.

#### **Every Friday:**

Cruisin' Grand 4-9pm

Escondido's Grand Avenue— pre '74 cars only Beginning May 6 if construction complete

**Every Saturday:** 

Carlsbad: 7am-9am, 7130 Avenida Encinas

**Every Sunday:** 

**Escondido: 8am-11am,** Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway

Pt. Loma: 8am-10pm, 2750 Dewey Road

#### Monthly:

First Wednesday: Dogs & Suds, 4-6pm 28120 Jefferson Ave, B207, Temecula

First Saturday: In-n-Out Burger, 11am-2pm 12890 Gregg Court, Poway

Second Sunday: JBA Speed Shop: 5:30am-9:30am 5675 Kearny Villa Road

Third Sunday: 7am-9am, La Mesa Boulevard, between Spring and 4th

**Third Sunday: 7:30am-9:30am, SD Auto Museum** 2080 Pan American Plaza in Balboa Park

#### **OTHER EVENTS**

April 23-24: Concourse d' Elegance, Coast Blvd/La Jolla Ellen Browning Scripps Park (View Only)

May 19: Encinitas Cruise Night, 5:30-7:30 Highway 101 between D and K streets

## MARKETPlace



#### IN SEARCH OF ...

... a 1969 Plymouth GTX.

Must be operational and numbers matching

No project cars, please.

Call MCSD member Dino at 619-980-9700

#### TRANSMISSION FOR SALE

A-833 A-body four-speed. 23 spline input/output ratios: 2.66:1, 1.91:1, 1.39:1, 1:1 / Rebuilt by me, never installed in vehicle; new bearings, rollers and synchronizer rings, seals & gaskets from Brewers. Built 1970; detent side cover. Side cover loose for inspection. Seal it up, add fluid, drive it! \$450; Club member price, \$250. Jim Bowen: bowen1@cox.net

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619-823-2431 ralphV2431@gmail.com Club Member

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(Dog not included)

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Club Member Steve Williams 619-988-0778

#### **JBA** Performance Center

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5675 Kearny Villa Rd, San Diego (858) 495-3395 www.jbaracing.com

#### **Ads for the PentaGram**

Contact: JM Walker: editor@moparclubsandiego.net
Classified Ads: Free to club members; non-members: \$10/mo
Display Ads Members free; non-members: \$25/mo (six-month min for non-mems):

#### Ad rates for the website

Contact Paul Polentz: Webmaster@moparclubsandiego.net

Constantine D. Buzunis, Esq.

LAW OFFICES OF CONSTANTINE D. BUZUNIS

3419 Overpark Road San Diego, CA 92130

T: (619) 980-9700 F: (858) 481-6170 cbuzunislaw@san.rr.com

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