

REVVING UP with Milton

The Newsletter of the Mopar Club / San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.net

MAY 2022

In Honor of Service to Our Country

The requirement to register with Selective Service was reinstated in 1980, but only for men born January 1, 1960, or later.

Well, that was me. I remember the day I went down to my local post office, filled out the form, took it to the counter and turned it in. Even though there wasn't a war then, I felt I needed to be willing to do my part for my country, if needed.

I come from a family of men who fought in WWII. Pictured here on the left is my father, Leslie. He was a sergeant

car shows like the Harrah's Collection in Reno in the 70s, camping trips to the Sierras and eating a lot of good food in Frisco, where they lived their whole lives.

Like many who served in the military back then, my uncle and father were not open to sharing stories from the war, and I never asked. But one night near the end of his life, my Uncle Al began to share some of his stories: about being shot at while piloting his B17 over Borneo and about having to ditch his aircraft on takeoff. He said to me, "I don't know why I'm telling

cently, from Ukraine, making us wonder: How can this be happening in the 21st Century?

On Saturday, April 30, a group of us participated in a car show on Naval Base Coronado that was part of an overall event for its military families. It was a very unique show where not only classic cars were on display, but also military trucks—very BIG trucks. These included a dump truck that could haul 44,000 pounds, a tow truck that had 22,000-pound towing capacity and a massive amphibious vehicle, along with a Humvee.

It became evident by the attention of the crowd that the show was about the trucks, and we were just along for the ride and eye candy. During the event, many enlisted men and women were hovering around the trucks, many with their families. The whole idea was to "Touch a Truck," which meant children were encouraged to get up into the cabs and beds of the trucks like those their parents drive and to see what it was like. It was a great event—and our seven cars did draw quite a bit of attention.

Years ago, a show at MCRD drew about 25 show cars on a Saturday morning. The next year, after the Marine general's wife got ahold of the idea and ran with it, the show featured more than 300 cars. The "Touch A Truck" organizer said there plans to have even more trucks next year. I look forward to how we can add to the event with more of our cars.

I am so pleased that as a club we can support our military because our military men and women do, and have done, so much for us. It's only because of those who have served, are serving, or who died in service to us that we have freedoms and a lifestyle like none other in the world.

We need to remember that for many it is a volunteer service, and many did



in the US Marine Corps and served in Papua, New Guinea, as a telephone man. Next is his brother, my Uncle Alfred, who was a lieutenant in the 13th Army Air Force and flew bombing missions over Europe and the South Pacific. My other uncle, George, was training to be a medic in Basic, preparing to serve. At one time in 1943, all three of my grandparents' children were doing their part in the war effort.

Because my grandfather died before I was born, my uncles took the place of my grandfather. I spent many days and evenings with them, going on outings, i.e.

you all these stories because I haven't told anybody about these experiences."

I never heard this next story about my Dad until my uncles told me: one day, when my Dad and another Marine were rolling out a spool of telephone wire in the jungle, there was a shot—and the guy next to my Dad was shot by a sniper. I never heard if that Marine survived; only that it could have been my Dad. Living as we do in the USA, those of us who have not served in wartime can never really comprehend what war is like. We only have seen actual war footage in the news, in photos and in movies—and most re-

Continue on next page

MOPAR CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

EST. July 1993

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Revving Up with Milton

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not have to go. My father and uncles—and so many of our longtime members—went to the draft office to sign up. Many of you went to the draft office to sign up to serve our country, and some of you are in active service. We all are grateful for those who have served, those who are serving and for those who lost their lives in service to our country. We can never repay you for putting your lives on the line for us.

This is why Mopar Club San Diego remains committed to putting on the best All-American Car Show possible—raising funds in support of *Fleet Week San Diego* which supports our local military and their families, and for *Wounded Warrior Homes*, which provides transitional housing, resources and services to post-9/11 vets dealing with PTSD and brain injuries. We need everyone's help: I went down and signed up. Your turn is coming to sign up, too.

Mopars Forever,
MCSD Pres. Milton Karahadian

P.S. Stay tuned for a possible club holiday toy drive. I'm still hoping to find someone willing to chair a holiday activity that would benefit military families.



Big, very big, military trucks were a huge draw for the kids attending the Navy Base Coronado's "Touch a Truck" family event Sunday, April 30. Several club members had their cars on display during the classic car show that was included in the event. See event photos, page 6.

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

MOPAR MUSCLE:

More than a guy thing — *Gals get up to speed, too*
Especially this one . . .



Kristy's family heirloom: her '47 Plymouth Woodie.



Back in time: Kristy learned to race in Jerry's first '71 Challenger, which they retired in 1991.



Another look back: Above, Kristy with her '64 Dodge Dart. Right, Kristy and Jerry with their '63 Dodge race car that she raced to a 1st place win at Palmdale in 1992.

By: Julie Walker

Mopar Club San Diego has its gearheads, Mopar couples and families, but among those are a number of true-blue, bona fide Mopar gals who are definitely up to speed—those who own their own Mopars and show 'em, some also maintain 'em, even race 'em.

Among those at the top of the list is longtime MCS D member Kristy Keller, who owns four Mopars herself. She raced Mopars for 10 years, including at the now-defunct Carlsbad Raceway, at the LA County Raceway and in Great Bend, Kansas, and yes, she has trophies. She also was pictured in an issue of *Chrysler Power* magazine after taking first place (by .003) in the Ladies Lipton Tea Race at Palmdale one year.

Kristy is married to fellow MCS D member Jerry Keller—a longtime drag racer and Mopar aficionado in his own right—and together they have a dozen Mopars. These include the four that she owns: her 1947 Plymouth Woodie, 1998 Jeep Wrangler Sport, 2008 Viper ACR and her 2011 Dodge Limited Edition Charger. She previously owned a '64 Dart, an '88 Dodge Daytona and a '91 Stealth; the latter she later sold to Jerry, and it's still part of their Mopar dozen. "We're always wheelin' and dealin'!" Kristy laughs.

She's been a Mopar gal since she was a child, born and raised in San Diego. Her '47 Plymouth Woodie is what her parents bought in 1950, and for many years, it was "the family car." Her Dad gave the Woodie to her in 1968: "He handed me the pink slip and said to get it out of the garage or he was going to sell it . . . I love that car; it's the family heirloom."

The family lived in Old Town all her early years but moved to Pt. Loma when they lost their land to eminent domain so a portion of Interstate 5 could be built. She and her two brothers all surfed as teens, and that Woodie hauled a lot of surfboards back in the day and still carries a lot of

Continued on next page



Above left, Kristy's 1st place trophy from her Palmdale win; below left, a photo of her with the trophy—which then appeared in *Chrysler Power* magazine (see red arrow).

Continued from previous page
memories.

And it's because of the Woodie that when her first marriage ended, Kristy joined the Walter P. Chrysler Club in San Diego in 1985 and that's where she met Jerry. He'd been racing since he was 13, and he introduced Kristy to drag racing in 1988. She learned to race in Jerry's first multi-award-winning '71 Challenger, also still in the Keller car barn today. "He told me just get in the car and drive it. When the light turns green, GO!" She laughs as she adds: "I learned how to do the line lock and a burnout—and then I became a monster! I raced for 10 years."

In 1990, she and Jerry were in a street accident: their Ram was t-boned, and she suffered some soft-tissue damage in her neck, which throughout her racing career caused her pain whenever she was "trying to climb out from under the steering wheel and over the rollbar." So, in the late '90s, after a first-place win, "I said: that's it. I'm done." Then she chuckles because "in the last year or so, Jerry finally got a hinged rollbar." Followed by a laugh: "Cause he got old!"

She didn't only race, she worked on the cars, too. She restored her '47 Woodie, including going back to its original paint color and adding a new top. Oh yeah, it's still driveable. "I just put in a new starter." And she and Jerry built their current race car, the '63 Dodge Polara they raced for more than 25 years, beginning in the '90s. Now she's Jerry's helper.

Although Kristy and Jerry have been together since about 1987, they didn't get married until 2005, and that's when they moved to Ramona. It's also the year she retired after 20 years with the San Diego Public Library. Kristy has two sons from her first marriage and four grandkids. Jerry has a son and a daughter from his first marriage and a grandson.

When the Walter P. Chrysler club faded away, Kristy and Jerry joined the newly formed Mopar Muscle Club, but that, too, didn't last. Paula and Dan Smith and others started the Mopar Club of San Diego in 1993, and Kristy and Jerry can always be counted among our now-almost-30-year-old club's first members.

For sure, cars—especially Mopars—will always be a huge part of their lives. Jerry still races, they maintain all their cars (his, hers and theirs), participate in shows and always play a key role on our club's All-American Car Show's day-of-show team. And in 2014, this dynamic duo started Ramona's American Graffiti Cruise, held on Thursday nights April into September and including a car show each year, with net proceeds going to the Ramona Senior Center. Last year, these American Graffiti events raised \$20,000 for the seniors.



The '63 Dodge Polara race car that Jerry and Kristy built together and which both raced for more than 25 years and part of the Keller Dozen today.

The Keller Dozen:

- '47 Plymouth Woodie (hers)
- '55 Dodge Coronet
- Two '63 Dodges (black + race car)
- '64 Dodge ProStreet
- Two '71 Dodge Challengers
- '91 Dodge Stealth
- '91 Dodge Ram truck
- '98 Jeep Wrangler Sport (hers)
- '08 Viper ACR (hers)
- '11 Limited Edition Charger (hers)



Below left, Kristy's plate on her 2011 Limited Edition Charger, recognizing the Kellers' Mopar count at that time. It's now 12. Below center, one of the Kellers' two '71 Challenger race cars and their '63 Dodge race car — and the Kellers still own both. At right, Kristy and Jerry at their stylized street sign at their back driveway.



MEMBER *News Bits*

Mopar Party—3-6pm May 28 RSVP NEEDED

Member Carl Parrick is hosting a party at his Bonita home on Saturday, May 28. Club members and their guests are invited. There is no fee, but your RSVP is needed since this party is being catered—with food, ice and sodas provided.

Contact Carl at 30cp30@gmail.com or call (619) 227-1567 with the number in your party (and if you must regret later, please let him know)

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Saturday, May 28, 2022 —3-6pm

Address: 563 Trailridge Drive, Bonita

Plenty of parking and a huge backyard

Bring you chair/s, a pop-up if you wish, and something else to drink if you want it.



Above, Jeff Walker (right) helps Paul Polentz remove the headers from Paul's '69 Road Runner, preparing to replace a blown head gasket.



Above, Joe Bourdage with the freshly plucked old engine from brother Aaron's 2008 Ford Ranger, and above right, the new engine, painted retro Ford blue. The original engine made it 452,000 (!) miles before the burned exhaust valves caused a persistent misfire that prevented passing the smog test. While not a Mopar, the Ranger was Aaron's primary transportation for working on several club member's vehicles.



An iconic London "phone box" behind Debbie, who has her cellphone in hand.



Debbie and Bob Gough spent three weeks touring Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England on the Viking Venus cruise ship. Center photo, Bob and Debbie with a Beefeater in London. Left photo, Bob gets in line with the Beatles, in Liverpool.

SHOWING & sharing



Mopar Club SD members and guests at the NBC show: front, Milton Karahadian and Melissa Ruby and Jonathan Gbenekama. Back from left: Dave Russell, Lee Meyer, Carl Parrick, LeAnn Parrick, Bill Baugh, Al Haefner (Melissa's Dad), Bob Gough and Jeff Walker (Photo by Julie).

NAVY BASE CORONADO'S "TOUCH A TRUCK" & SHOW — April 30



The "Touch A Truck" family event at Navy Base Coronado on Saturday, April 30, wasn't a large show, but it was mighty with seven MCSD Plymouths. Only two awards were given, and both were won by Mopar Club SD members. Above left, Milton Karahadian, with Lee Meyer, received the People's Choice award with his "Black Fish" '70 Cuda. Above right, Carl Parrick and his '68 GTX received the Captain's Choice award.

At left: the Black Fish and Gbenekamas' '70 Hemi Cuda, in the overlay: Bob Gough, Milton, and Jeff Walker with the Black Fish banner



Above, from left: Gbenekamas' Cuda, Milton's Cuda, Dave Russell's '66 Barracuda and Walkers' '68 GTX.

Left: Carl Parrick's '68 GTX, Bob Gough's '67 Barracuda; and Bill Baugh's '66 Hemi Satellite.

AMERICAN GRAFFITI CAR SHOW Ramona — April 23



Above, Julie and Jeff Walkers' '68 GTX won a People's Choice award in Ramona.

Right: Brenda and Eric Bense

Below, Lynne Kotas brought her super cool Ram to the show.



Below, Kristy Keller, on left, worked the entry.



Below, MCSD members weren't the only ones abuzz over what was done to this second-generation Charger seen (and heard) at the show. "It's a crime!" was heard more than once.



Above: Matt Cantor with his 2019 Challenger and Kathy Silcott with her 2021 Hellcat; below, a Challenger trio: the Benses' 2012 Yellow Jacket lined up with Kathy's Hellcat and Matt's Challenger.



Left, Carl Ashworth and his 2011 Challenger. Below, Kathleen and Matt Domens' 2015 "SBLMCAT."



Below, Jim Signorelli's '74 Plymouth Duster race car.



LET'S GO *& show*

CAR SHOWS

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
www.inlandmopars.com Day of show registration now available. If willing to judge, no entry fee (see Julie or Jeff)
CARAVAN leaving from Deer Springs Park 'n Ride (I-15) at 7:15am

Fri, May 20: Battle of the Boats Drag Races, Gates open 3pm
Barona, 1750 Wildcat Canyon Road — Bring your ride and compete against our military elite: 5-10pm. Open to all racers (\$30) Spectators, \$10.

Sat, May 21: Run to the Hills Car Show, 10am-2pm
Pine Valley Road & Hiway 80 — Info: Cindy 619-504-2882

****** Sun May 22: Mopars at Pacific Islander Beer Co., 1-5pm**
8665 Argent Street, Santee — Info: Sherri 619-253-0524
Mopar Club SD and our Mopars will be the featured guests.
Must register in advance, 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, 9am-2pm Grape Day Park, Esc.
Benefits Meals on Wheels, Armed Services YMCA
\$30 registration by May 28 / \$35 after and day-of-show
www.pickupsunlimitedsandiego.com

Sun, Jun 19: Fathers Day Show at Belmont Park, 10am-4pm
Belmont Park, 3146 Mission Blvd, Pacific Beach — 619-201-8207

Mon, July 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**
NEW SITE: Seaport Village (Embarcadero North)

Sat, Aug 13: Main Street America, 10am-3pm
Seaport Villalge/Embarcadero North. Reg info available in May

Sat Aug. 27 Christian Rods & Customs, 9am-2pm
9400 Campo Road, Spring Valley / proceeds benefit Restoration Ranch www.christianrodsandcustoms.com

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 Saturday:
Carlsbad: 7am-9am, 7130 Avenida Encinas

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

Escondido Cars & Coffee, 9-11am
Visual Detailing, 2180 Meyers Avenue

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

First Mondays thru summer, 5-7pm
San Diego Association of Car Clubs
Meet/Greet/Eat: Fosters Freeze lot, 5129 Waring Road, SD

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

Every Friday:
Cruisin' Grand 4-9pm
Escondido's Grand Avenue— pre '74 cars only
As of May 6, 2022

Our very own *Thelma & Louise*, on the mend . . .

Kay Signorelli and Debbie Kane want everyone to know they are on the mend, after each suffered a broken neck in recent months. And their doing so with their best “Thelma & Louise” impression in Kay’s ’65 Valiant on a recent Sunday.

Kay unknowingly suffered her broken neck several months ago when she slipped coming down the steps from their motorhome and fell back, hitting her head. Something she didn’t discover ’til she went to Atlanta in late March to see her sister on what she now calls “the vacation I don’t want to remember!”

It was while visiting her sister that all hell broke loose one afternoon. Massive headaches and unbearable, indescribable pain resulted in an ambulance ride and a seven-day hospital stay in an unfamiliar and rather unfriendly place—with Jim back here at home. It took the docs there three days to determine she actually had a broken neck. They’d been considering massive migraine or meningitis. Jim literally made hundreds of calls: 68 in one day alone, he says, trying to get info, answers and action.

On Easter Sunday, Jim flew to Atlanta, and the next day, he brought Kay and Hemi home, where she is now relieved to be under the care of local docs.

“I’m getting better,” Kay said a few days ago, “but I can’t go offroading yet!” Yes, she still tires easily and will be on the mend for a while, but she is upbeat and says, “I’ve got the best doc right here in the house with Jim.”

The Signorellis want everyone know how much “we appreciate all the good wishes, prayers and support” as Kay continues rehab, including physical therapy.

As previously reported in *The PentaGram*, Debbie was in a horrific traffic accident late last year when the van she was in was struck by another vehicle, leading to an extend-



Wearing their neck braces and hands raised, Debbie Kane and Kay Signorelli doing their “Thelma & Louise” impression in Kay’s ’65 Valiant 200—and yes, it has a Hemi in it (he’s behind Kay). Both are upbeat, but since neither of them is driving yet, Jim Signorelli and one of Debbie’s friends drove them to Casa Machado for the photo shoot.

ed hospitalization and a number of surgeries for her injuries, including her broken neck. She’s now getting physical therapy and rehabbing at home—and while she still needs to go slow (*always tough for a Mopar gal*), she’s upbeat and able to get out and about a bit at a time with a little help from her friends.

Debbie says: “Thank you, all! I love my Mopar family! I appreciate the friendships and the prayers, and I’m looking forward to being behind the wheel again.” Her ’68 Charger awaits!

Kay’s Disclaimer: Breaking your neck is for professionals only; not for amateurs!

San Diego Automotive Museum’s Special May Events

May 14, 7am: Early Admission Day. Members will be served a complimentary pancake breakfast. Reservations are required — by May 12. Individual members may bring one guest. Family members may bring two adults and four youths.

May 15: Cars & Coffee
Museum will open at 8am

May 30: Special holiday hours. The museum will be open on Monday, Memorial Day, from 10am-4:30pm.

<https://www.sdautomuseum.org>

SHOULDA BEEN A MOPAR

Those who follow the NHRA most likely have noticed that Carlsbad’s Ron Capps, who has long raced a Mopar Funny Car, is now racing under the Toyota banner, driving one of the new GR Supras. He might want to reconsider: He placed third in the Four-Wide Nationals at Charlotte recently, his first outing with the Supra—a cool car, but not a Mopar.

Photos in this issue provided by:

Aaron Bourdage, Bob Gough, Debbie Gough,
Kathy Silcott and Julie Walker

MARKET *Place*

2 FOR SALE ...

Right: 2016 Drag Pak Challenger, with wheelie bars and parachute, 354 Supercharged; not street legal. Price includes trailer and extra parts. \$90,000 or best. (760) 689-8096



Left: Original 1966 Dodge Hemi Charger. Blue interior. In the process of being refurbished. Best offer. (760) 689-8096 (Dog not included)

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



This 1966 Plymouth Barracuda (white, with red interior) is coming up for sale by the Kellers' friend, Michael Legace, due to health issues. Serious buyers only. Contact Kellers at (619) 871-8854

FREE ... TO MCSD MEMBER

Factory airbox for a 2015 or later Challenger Hellcat. Can bring to May MCSD meeting. Jeff Walker: jeff@wc-ms.com or 619-985-7481

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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