

# REVVING UP with Milton

The Newsletter of the Mopar Club / San Diego

# PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.net

March 2024

## In Appreciation of "Car Guys" More Skilled Than Me

I found out that my brand-new Hemi block still needs machining.

Many of us have been on this road restoring cars many times. You start working on a project and unexpected circumstances come up. I didn't plan this to happen this way, but I ended up with two vehicles in a build. The first one started March 2013 when I picked up a '39 Plymouth pick-up from out in a field in Olathe, Kansas.

Chavonne and I towed it home and got it in the driveway. Not long after, I received a ticket from the city that I better get that pile of junk out of sight, or they were going to come onto my property and tow it away! So, I found a way to get it into the garage and start working on it. (That story is another one.)

In time, I started taking it apart and buying parts and doing major body work. I eventually took it to South Town Hot Rods in Imperial Beach to be engineered and put

together the first time. Things were really going well, and they finished the build.

I took it to another shop for final body work and paint in 2019. That's when the build went sideways. First, the shop lost its lease prematurely and went through a lawsuit over the lease agreement. Then came Covid. I found myself in "Body Shop Jail" for the next five years.

In the meantime, I started to get antsy for a project. I found a '70 Charger just down the street in Ocean Beach and started courting the owner. I finally made the deal in September of 2021 and started working on it.

I took it to Lee Meyer, and we dug

into disassembly and metal work. We found out that sitting outside under a tarp for 20 years that the Ocean Beach weather really got to the '70. Now I have two vehicles in build and can only afford one. So, I put the Charger on hold and really started leaning into the body shop to get the '39 painted. Finally, the truck is back at South Town for the final build, and that is gaining momentum. The blown small block Hemi will be done in summer.

It's no secret I do very little actual skilled work in my builds because my skill level and the quality I desire are not compatible for my projects. So, I lean on

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Milton has two builds going on now, with the help of a few friends, pros in the auto repair business, actually, for which Milton is grateful. Above is the freshly painted frame and partially assembled block for his '39 Plymouth pickup, a project that got held up for five years and is only recently back on track. During that time, Milton acquired a '70 Charger and began that build. He is pictured at left, with Mike of Quarter Mile Performance, who is machining the short block of the 572 Hemi for the Charger.

# MOPAR CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

EST. July 1993

## Officers

**President** — Milton Karahadian  
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gbenekama@gmail.com

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treasurer@moparclubsandiego.net

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secretary@moparclubsandiego.net

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## Revving Up with Milton

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other skilled professionals to help me with my projects. This is one reason why they take so long. I have engine builders, auto painters, auto engineers, installers, upholsterers, plus transmission, rear axle, auto glass, auto electric, companies that provide service for my builds. And then you have your retailers like Summit, Rock Auto, Classic Industries, Indy Cylinder Heads, Bob Mazzolini Racing and a host of Mopar-specialty independent retailers. All of them are helping me complete my projects, and I am always so grateful for all they do for me. I couldn't do it without them.

The most recent company I am very grateful for is Quarter Mile Performance (QMP) in Chatsworth. After Lee Meyer assembled the short block of my 572 Hemi for the Charger, he discovered there wasn't proper oiling for the lifters, which would require machining the block. We asked around and were referred to QMP. Mike was very kind and honest with me about my problem. He told me to call in a month, and he'd see what I could do.

Last Thursday, Bob Martello and I took the engine in to have it looked at. Mike will be getting back to me this week with the verdict. I told him, as I do all my car guys, how much I appreciate each one of them. I know that without them I could never accomplish my projects the way I want.

I encourage you to remember the people who help you. Tell them how grateful and appreciative you are for their skill and willingness to help you with your car desires.

*Mopars Forever*  
Milton

## Wanted: Your Favorites for Recommendations List

Have you had a positive experience with a Mopar vendor, car dealer, mechanic or shop? Mopar Club San Diego wants to put together a contact list for members. Bob Martello is coordinating this effort: contact him at moparbobm@cox.net with your recommendations. These will be compiled as "Member Recommendations" and made available to club members when compiled. Positive recommendations only, please. Regular updates will be sought.

**Website:** moparclubsandiego.net  
Facebook.com/MoparClubSanDiego

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 420076  
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Mopar Club of San Diego is a member  
of the San Diego Association of Car Clubs





## ***“Team Dart” is nearing the finish line***



It was a year ago that Mopar Club San Diego stepped up and answered the call for help to complete the restoration of a 1968 Dodge Dart GT 340 convertible for the family of the late John DePauw, a true car guy and a Mopar man from way back.

A Mopar Club SD team led by Jonathan Gbenekama has been making real progress on the car for the DePauw family. As with any classic car restoration, it hasn't always been a smooth road. There have been surprises, hiccups, extra expenses—but so far, all surmountable, and the camaraderie has been great. They hope to get the Dart done within the next few months. Carol Ann, John's wife of 35 years, can't wait to begin driving it.

John began fixing hotrods in his teens and was one of the lucky guys who

turned his passion into a career—a 60-year career working with cars, the last 50 with Mopars, including at Jack Powell Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Escondido. He was a service technician and ultimately became an assistant service manager.

What he loved most about his job was being a mentor to the new guys at the dealership. And he became a parts collector. John just couldn't stand to see parts thrown away so he brought them home . . . again and again and again.

About 15 years ago, he acquired the Dart, wanting to restore it, true to its roots, but with some modern comforts. He figured with all the parts he had boxed up in his sheds, he was good to go. However, he never really got into the restoration until the Covid pandemic shutdown led

to his retirement. The perfect opportunity to focus on his beloved Dart.

He made progress until unexpected health issues forced the Dart to the back burner once more, then in December 2022, John died. His last wish was for the restoration to be completed.

He had the car's engine, transmission, suspension and disc brakes completed and installed, and the

Dart had a new bright white paint job. And there were all those parts in various boxes and on shelves in John's garage and storage sheds. No one in the family knew what to do with them—but they wanted to follow John's wishes to get the restoration completed.

Carol Ann, and their combined family of two sons and a daughter, plus grandchildren, sought guidance via social media. And found it when Mopar Club San Diego answered that call, and so, on March 18 last year, a group of club members led by Jonathan Gbenekama and Milton Karahadian were standing in John's garage, assessing what was needed.

Because the dash had yet to be installed and there was no ignition source,

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## "Team Dart" making progress

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they had to push the Dart out, hot-wire it, *coaxing, coaxing* the engine til it finally roared to life. Whoops all around!

Club members who have been building John DePauw's dream are the core team of Jonathan Gbenekama, Milton Karahadian, Jeff Walker, Jim Bowen, Tim and Cory Whittier and Brad Heavey, with help at various times from Kyle and Jack Bowen, Bob Martello, Matt Domen, Shawn Rover, Dwight Brinkerhoff, Cameron Whittier and Mike Mountain.

Led by Jonathan, they have been gathering onsite once or twice a month, four hours each time, since last March. They discovered that some of the available parts were not correct for this Mopar, driver and passenger door lock mechanisms were especially cantankerous, the steering column was incorrect, and the gauges for the dash were wrong, among other finds. John had seats for the car, but they had to be sent to the upholsterer; all the chrome and stainless needed to be redone.

Those issues taken care of, the team is now in the final laps, with the dash soon to be installed and the inside wiring to be done. The rest of the chrome and stainless, all the window glass and the newly upholstered seats then will be installed, and finally, the new convertible top goes on. Then the test drive.

Next work dates are March 9 and 23. Anyone interested in participating or even just taking a look can contact Jonathan for the address, which is in northeast Escondido: [gbenekama@gmail.com](mailto:gbenekama@gmail.com).

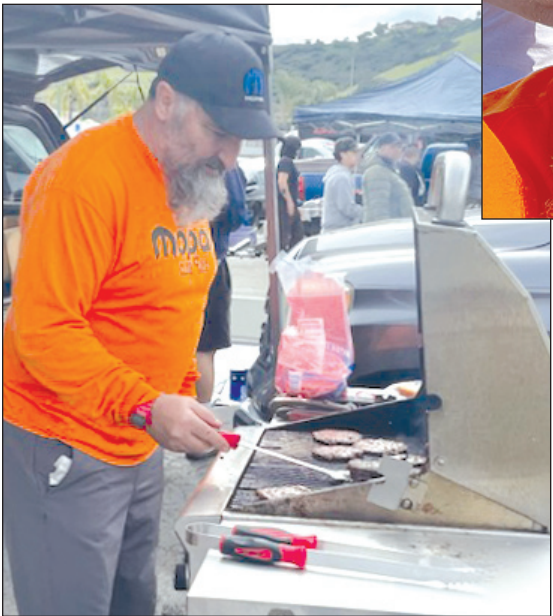


Top photo: During the Feb. 17 Dart restoration work party, Tim Whittier works on fitting the Dart's hood properly. Above left, Brad Heavey and Jonathan Gbenekama tangle with the fiesty door locking mechanism on the passenger side. Above right, the Dart's back bumper and badging is in place. Right, Cory and Tim Whittier adjust the fit for the front bumper. Also there that day and working on the dash assembly and wiring, when not taking these photos, was Jeff Walker.



# SHOWING & Sharing

## San Diego Auto Show & Swap Meet: Feb. 18



Mopar Club San Diego members gathered at the massive swap meet at the amphitheater in South Bay on Feb. 19 with parts to swap and burgers to barbecue. Left, club President Milton Karahadian at the barbecue. Above, from right, Milton, Bob Martello, Jim Signorelli, Dick Miner and Jim's friend, Robert. Right, queuing up at the club's lunch tent.



## Stockpile of Classic Mopars Uncovered by Auto Archaeologist

**Submitted by**  
**MCSD member Eric Hansen:**

*Article reprinted from Hagerty.com  
Written by Brandan Gillogly  
and published January 24, 2024*

The Automotive Archaeologist, otherwise known as Ryan Brutt, has used his vast network of friends to uncover some truly amazing barn finds and share them through his YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@AutoArchaeology>).

A recent video reveals a spectacular warehouse filled to the brim with desirable Mopar parts and a yard overflowing

with restorable E-body muscle. If you're a Mopar fan, or if you just enjoy muscle cars in general, the walkthrough of this stockpile will likely get your gears turning. Imagine how many rare vehicles could be built from only the parts on site!

The warehouse, one of many on the property, is located in Missouri and features the disassembled remnants of what looks like hundreds of Mopar muscle cars. Pallet racks are filled with engine blocks, alternators, air cleaners, valve covers, and intake manifolds stacked like cordwood. Another row of racks shows even more

plunder, also organized into sections: steering columns, fenders, interior door panels and trunk lids.

At the back of the warehouse hide 'Cudas from 1970 and '71, mostly convertibles, stacked two high, two wide, and three deep.

As massive as the hoard seems, what's shown in the video is not the half of it. Brutt has documented this vast collection in previous videos over the past several months and plans a future video showing an additional building on the property that will probably answer most of the questions Mopar fans have when seeing all of the rare and desirable cars parked in storage. When we asked Brutt about the plans for the immense stash,

**Thank You to members who sent photos for this issue:**  
**Bob Gough, Milton Karahadian and Jeff Walker**

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# LET'S GO & show

## Check for event updates & additions:

[www.sandiegoassociationofcarclubs.org](http://www.sandiegoassociationofcarclubs.org)

Facebook: @San Diego Association of Car Clubs

[www.socalcarculture.com/events.html](http://www.socalcarculture.com/events.html)

<https://goodoleboyssandiego.com/current-event-calendar>

## CAR SHOWS

### Sat, Mar 9: Kearny High Alumni Car Show: NEW SITE!

9am-2pm / now at SD County Office of Education,  
6401 Linda Vista Rd, SD / Drawings, food, music, awards  
All makes/years: \$25 w/free lunch pre Mar. 1 / \$30 after  
Info: 619-201-8207 / Rain date: Mar. 24

### Fri-Sun, Mar. 15-17: MATS Las Vegas (Muscle Cars at the Strip)

Racing, car show, swap meet, manufacturers' midway  
MATSLV.com for tickets, hotel info and more

### Sat, Mar 16: Revved Up for Students Car Show, 9am-noon

Grace Christian School, 643 W. 13th Street, Escondido  
[www.graceschoolscondido.com](http://www.graceschoolscondido.com) / Info: 760-747-3029

### Sun, Mar 17: Motors for Music, 9am-noon

San Marcos High School: custom & unique trophies, live music  
Benefits SMHS school band and color guard programs  
Expanded trophy list for 2024  
[www.sanmarcosbands.org/Motors-For-Music](http://www.sanmarcosbands.org/Motors-For-Music)

### Sat, Mar 23: Cold Case Community Car Cruise, 10am-4pm

700-728 Woodrow Avenue 92114 San Diego (Skyline area)  
[justice4danielcoriz@yahoo.com](mailto:justice4danielcoriz@yahoo.com)

### Tue, Apr 2: SD Association of Car Clubs Meet-up, 5-7pm

1588 Main St, El Cajon. Info" 619-201-8207

### Fri-Sun, Apr 5-7: Del Mar Nationals, 8am-5pm

DM Fairgrounds - Info: <https://www.good-guys.com/dmn>

### Sat, Apr 13: Ramona Senior Center Car Show, 10am-2pm

Grace Community Church, 1234 Barger Pl. Info: 619-980-3647

### Sat. Apr 13: Women Empowering Women Car Event

11am-4pm; 3990 Bonita Rd., Bonita. Info: 619-509-7999

### Sat-Sun, Apr 13-14: Shifting Gears Car Rally & Show

at Pala Casino & Resort — Apr. 13 Car Rally / Apr. 14 Car Show  
Info: [sarah@sdautomuseum.org](mailto:sarah@sdautomuseum.org) / Info: 619-398-0311

### Sun. Apr 14: Swap Meet & Car Show, 6am-1pm

Barona Drags, 1750 Wildcat Canyon Rd. Info: 619-201-8207

### Fri-Sun Apr 19-21: La Jolla Concourse d'Elegance

Ellen Browning Scripps Park, 1100 Coast Blvd, La Jolla  
Info: 619-233-5006

### Sun, Apr 21: Heartbeat Happening, 9am-3pm

Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Rd., Valley Center

### Sat, Apr 27: Naval Base Coronado Car Show & Touch a Truck

10am-noon, VAdm. Martin Fitness Center pkg lot.  
[Runsignup.com/Race/CA/SanDiego/nbccarshowandtouchatruck2024](https://Runsignup.com/Race/CA/SanDiego/nbccarshowandtouchatruck2024) and you will be contacted regarding base access if no military ID.

### Sun, Apr 28: Motorcars on Mainstreet, 10am-3pm

Coronado Island - Info: 619-437-0254

### Fri-Sat, May 3-4: Temecula Rod Run

<https://temeculaca.gov/Temecula-Rod-Run>

### Sat, May 4: East Cty Cruisers Summer Fling, 9am-2pm

NEW LOCATION TBA - Info: 619-201-8207

### Fri-Sat, May 10-11: Over the Hill Gang Streak, 8am-10pm

Campland on the Bay, 2211 Pacific Beach Drive  
Info: [cruznmy56@yahoo.com](mailto:cruznmy56@yahoo.com)

### Sat. May 18: Desert Cruisers' Run to the Hills 9am-3pm

Olde Highway 80 / Cindy: 619-504-2682

### Sun, May 19: Mopars in May

**CANCELED!!!! Due to next event:**

### Sun, May 19: Mopars vs the World, 8am-3pm

Irwindale Drag Strip, sponsored by Full Blown Performance  
Drag racing, swap meet, car show, with Ft. Irwin Toy Drive  
sponsored by Inland Mopars; Entry fees from \$10-\$60; Racing  
at 10; trophies at 2 — Ticket purchasing info to come

### Sun, May 19: Pal Joey's Sweetest Show in Town, 7am-2pm

Pal Joey's: 5147 Waring Rd / 619-980-6699

### Sun, May 19: Benedict Castle Concours Car Show,

**Riverside** —Benefits Teen Challenge  
Grand Marshal Chip Foose. Sat/Sun events  
[www.benedictcastleconcours.com/tickets/](http://www.benedictcastleconcours.com/tickets/)

### Sun, May 26: Fallbrook Vintage Car Show, 10am-3pm

Main Street. Info: 760-689-2650 or website

**CAR SHOWS** *continued from page 6***Mon, May 27: SD Auto Swap & Car Show, 6:30am-1pm**

North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre  
2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista 91911  
Info: 619-201-8207

**Tue, Jun 4: SD Association of Car Clubs Meet-up, 5-7pm**

Classic Malt Shop, 3625 Midway Dr., Suite B  
Info: 619-201-8207

**Sat, Jun 8: Fords & Friends Car Show, 9am-2pm**

El Monte Park, 15805 El Monte Rd  
Info: 619-454-1321

**Sat, Jun 15: Veterans Assoc. of North Cty Car Show**

9am-2pm, 1617 Mission Ave., Oceanside  
Info: info@VANC.me

**Sun, Jun 23: Garden of Innocence Car Show, 8am-2pm**

5600 Carroll Canyon Rd. (Scripps Ranch area)  
Info: 619-962-7858

**Sun, Jun 29: Spokes on the Bay, 6am-9pm**

Seaport Embarcadero North, 400 Kettner Blvd  
Info: 619-925-7305

**Sat, Jul 13: Serra Mesa Block Party, 1-7pm**

2721 Greyling Dr., San Diego / John: 619-980-2721

**Tue, Aug 6: SD Association of Car Clubs Meet-up, 5-7pm**

600 Palm Avenue, Imperial Beach. Info: 619-201-8207

**Sat, Aug 26: Christian Rods & Customs Car Show, 9am-2pm**

9400 Campo Rd., Spring Valley / Info: 619-890-4177

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## Stockpile of Classic Mopars Uncovered

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which includes more than 200 cars, he told us that the partners aren't currently looking to sell the cars but they have traded among collectors in their circle.

"They are actively restoring cars, rare stuff," Brutt said. Some of the work is being sold on-site, while other jobs are being farmed out. Although the process is moving slowly, the owners—a pair of friends who have spent more than 20 years accumulating desirable Mopar muscle cars—are using the original parts to get the rare beasts back on the road. It will take years to restore just a sampling of the cars, but it's good to know that so many of them are being preserved.

If the videos of this collection have caught your interest, Brutt says his follow-up, highlighting some of the restoration process, is next in the pipeline.

**CARS & COFFEE EVENTS****WEEKLY:****Wednesdays**

El Cajon: Cajon Cruise Nights (thru Oct), Main & Magnolia, 5-7:30pm / Jul 13: American Muscle / Sep 4: Mopar Madness

**Saturdays:**

Bonita: 7-9am. 4414 Bonita Rd.  
Carlsbad: 7-9am, Poinsettia Village Ctr, 7130 Avenida Encinas  
Pt. Loma: 8-10am, 2250 Shelter Island Drive, SD

**Sundays:**

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

**BI-MONTHLY & MONTHLY:****Second Wednesday:**

Oceanside: 6-9pm, South O Cruise Night  
South O Brewing, 1775 S. Pacific Coast Hwy

**First Saturday:**

Clairemont: STP Bar & Grill, 10am-1pm,  
5487 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

Poway: In-n-Out Burger, 11am-2pm, 12890 Gregg Ct.

**First Sunday:**

Carlton Hills: 7-9am, 8959 Carlton Hills Blvd.  
Info: wfranksmith@gmail.com

Perris: Perris Airport, 4-7pm, 2091 Goetz Road

Santee: 7-9am Mary's Donuts, 8959 Carlton Hills Blvd.

**Third Saturday:**

Midway District: Classic Malt Shop, 3-8pm,  
3625 Midway Dr., Suite B

**Second & Fourth Sundays**

San Diego: 7:30-9:30am, 200 Marina Park Way

**Third Sunday:**

Balboa Park: 7:30-9:30am, SD Automotive Museum,  
2080 Pan American Plaza

Carlsbad: noon-4pm, Spar Customs, 890 Palomar Airport Rd.  
Dabbles@sparcustoms.com to reserve a spot

La Mesa: 7-9am, La Mesa Blvd, between Spring and 4th streets

Mira Mesa: 7-9:30am, Donut Touch Bakery, 6755 Mira Mesa Bl.

**Fourth Sunday:**

SD East Village: 11:30am-2pm, Black Angus, 707 E St.  
Info: 619-778-1395



# MARKETplace

## FOR SALE



'72 Challenger, RT Tribute, 440 6pk auto. One owner for over 20 years. Original interior, Top Banana Yellow. Keystone wheels on BFGs. Never raced. Always garaged. Larry Johnson: text 760-822-9402 or email 51deblarry@gmail.com. \$45,000



## PENTAGRAM AD INFORMATION:

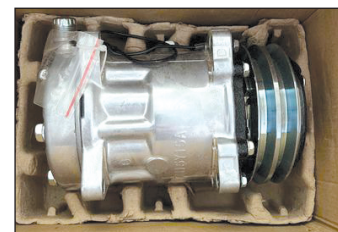
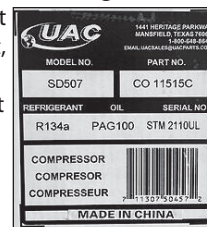
Free to club members  
\$25 per issue for non-members.  
Published monthly.  
Deadline is the 25th of each month.  
secretary@moparclubsandiego.net

Members placing ads are also welcome to advertise on the club website at no charge.  
Contact Paul Polentz:  
webmaster@moparclubsandiego.net

## FOR SALE

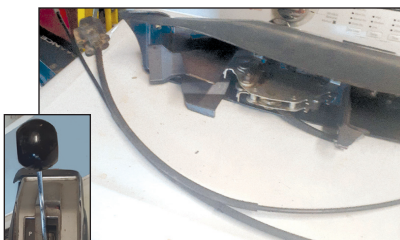
### New! Never Used

Member Franco Fonseca bought this brand new A/C unit for his '66 Newport, then changed his mind: "I didn't want to cut into the firewall," he said. Paid \$1,200; Offered for \$850



(925) 588-3876 (corrected #)  
franco@smokehousejerky.com

## FOR SALE . . .



65 slip Yoke button tranny console shifter, possible torque converter and brand new reverse manual valve body, b/o will be taken. Text only: 619-750-8377

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