

REVVING UP with Milton

By: Milton Karahadian
MCSD President

Every now and then it's important to look back at life and see where you have come from. In my life I can see the value of that since moving to San Diego 23 years ago. I arrived here with two children—a single dad with no money and a small Arrow pickup that wasn't mine.

Those were hard days, trying to navigate life in a new city with two children under five years old. I went to work for an electric company, wiring houses while going through the process of trying to get a job at Point Loma Nazarene University. We lived in an apartment on Rosecrans, and I dropped my children off at the school in the morning and picked them up from an after-school program. It was a juggle, for sure, trying to keep all the balls in the air as a single dad.

In September 2001, I began my job at PLNU. We moved into campus housing, and things began to get better. One of my main strategies was to keep our lives in a small radius, to accommodate our family's needs. With this apartment came a garage! After joining the Mopar Club of San Diego, around 2003, I transported the

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PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.net

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Looking Back to look Forward

Cuda I had owned since 1978 and which had been parked in my mom's garage in Northern California and brought it to San Diego. After 20 years, my Mopar life began.

As I look back at this past year, 2023 was an amazing year for this club. The club, which has been active for 30 years, is very healthy. Our finances are strong, and our membership, meeting attendance and number of volunteers have grown. This past year, members have participated in four service projects, including our annual All-American Car Show that raised almost \$15,000 for our beneficiaries that support our military and veterans with brain injuries—a total that eclipsed last year's amount. We participated in the Marines' Toys for Tots campaign and supported Hot Rod Holly's Alpha Project blanket collection. The club also took on a 1969 Dodge Dart assembly completion project for a family that had lost their husband and father after a battle with cancer. That project will be wrapped up early in 2023.

Six club members participated in the

Hot Rod Magazine Power Tour from LA to Las Vegas and back, a three-day event. Cruises, car shows, parties and hang outs were a staple. One of our exciting accomplishments this year was integrating the 858 Mopar Club into the Mopar Club of San Diego, bringing more younger members into the club. Some of them are already making a difference, and I look forward to the continued involvement.

But in every story, there is tragedy. We were all shocked by the unexpected death of our beloved member Joe Bourdage, who took a piece of our hearts with him.

So now it's time to look forward. We will finish the Dart project with a televised reveal that will boost exposure for our club. Also, there is a partial transition of car show leadership this year, with others willing to step up and take on tasks for some retiring show leaders, among them Paul Polentz, show registrar, and Debbie and Larry Johnson, vendors chairs (Larry previously served many years as show chair). Their longtime car show efforts

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Above, some of the many club members who worked the club's All-American Car Show at Seaport Village last July, raising \$15,000 for our military beneficiaries.

Right: The club's other big service project of 2023 was taking over the restoration of a '68 Dart GT convertible for a family who lost their husband/father unexpectedly, with restoration started. At bottom right are Jonathan Gbenekama, restoration team leader, with some of his team and the Dart as the restoration progresses: from left, Jonathan, James Leitner, Jim Bowen, Tim Whittier, Cody Whittier, Jeff Walker and Milton Karahadian.

Primary projects of 2023 . . .



MOPAR CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

EST. July 1993

Officers

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All-American Car Show
Jeff Walker

Car Club Council Rep
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Cruisemeister
Jim Signorelli

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play4health@hotmail.com

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have been very appreciated. I am excited that others have committed to taking on show leadership roles, including Jim Bowen, Matt Cantor, Kathleen and Matt Domen and Debbie Gough.

We are looking forward to our 2024 All-American Car Show, but our challenge has been getting show date finalized. Show Chair Jeff Walker is working on that, and planning will begin soon. It will be exciting to see how this all works out! My goal is for the show to raise at least \$16,000 or more! We will continue to support our military charities.

Additionally, I would like to continue to grow our club's use of our "Band App" for communication—in combination with our club website and the PentaGram newsletter.

On a personal note: I would like to thank the club's 2023 Leadership Team: Vice President Jonathan Gbenekama, Secretary Julie Walker, Treasurer Debbie Gough and AACS Chair Jeff Walker. In addition, I want to thank others in key roles, among them: Cruisemeister and party hosts Kay and Jim Signorelli, Webmaster Paul Polentz, PentaGram Editor Julie Walker, Social Media Coordinators Melissa and Jonathan Gbenekama, Band App Leader James Leitner, Dart Restoration Leader Jonathan Gbenekama, and Car Council Rep Bill Baugh.

All that happens in the club is because of their diligent work. Most of you have no idea how many hours they volunteer to offer you and others a first-class club experience.

Back to my story about looking back to those early years in San Diego: I married a wonderful supportive woman, bought a house, both my children graduated from PLNU, we acquired eight vehicles (which is too many, and I will be thinning the herd this year), and I have developed so many new and ongoing relationships that are so important to me.

I have been blessed, and I think if we all think back, we can see how blessed and fortunate we all are when we have that perspective of looking back. Now let's go!

You know what I always say: "It's not all about the cars, it's about the people." We will continue to focus on relationships with our club members and others.

*Mopars Forever
Milton*

SIDE NOTE: Your club leadership team will meet Jan. 15 for its an annual planning meeting to map out activities and events. If you're interested in being a part of the leadership team and attending, let me know: mkarahadian@pointloma.edu

Website: moparclubsandiego.net
Facebook.com/MoparClubSanDiego

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

A POWERful road trip!



Jonathan puts his Hemi Cuda to the test at what had been the Dolores Lake Water Park. Below, Kathleen Domen with Domen and Signorelli Hellcats, at Pomona.



Defunct water park is still a cool playground



Jonathan warms up the tires at Irwindale.



Kay and Jim Signorelli, above, and left with their Hellcat.



There wasn't a lot of advance notice, but six Mopar Club San Diego members, in four Mopars, were able to take part in the Hot Rod Power Tour West in mid-December. Jim Signorelli provided the heads up about the event, and Jonathan Gbenekama coordinated club-member participation, with Jim and Jonathan joined on the tour by members Kay Signorelli, Kathleen and Matt Domen and James Leitner.

The Hot Rod Power Tour is billed as America's largest road trip, and the MotorTrend Group was celebrating Hot Rod magazine's 75th anniversary by bringing the Hot Rod Power Tour West for the first time in nearly three decades.

Almost 2,000 classic and modern hot rods, muscle cars and custom rides made the West Coast journey: from Irwindale, the birthplace of hot rodding in Southern California, to Las Vegas and back, ending at Pomona Speedway. Among them were Jonathan's '70 Hemi Cuda, the Signorellis' 2015 Challenger Hellcat, Domen's '15 Challenger Hellcat, and James' '09 Challenger.

The three-day event kicked off on Friday, Dec. 15 at Irwindale Speedway, then on to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, arriving on Saturday, Dec. 16. It concluded on Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Pomona Speedway. A power trip all the way.

A poker run was included, and stops featured on-site activities, including dyno demonstrations, a sponsors and vendors midway, drag racing, autocross, burnouts, live musical entertainment, official event merchandise for sale, giveaways and automotive talent.

Along the route, the Mopar SD clubbers had a blast at the defunct Dolores Lake Water Park, made a poker run stop at Eddie's World and went back to the 50s/60s at Peggy Sue's Diner.

MotorTrend Group called this the *inaugural* Hot Rod Power Tour West, so that bodes well for a repeat! Hopefully, later this year.



At Pomona: Mopar Club SD members who did the Power Tour West, are, starting second from left, Kay and Jim Signorelli, Jonathan Gbenekama, Kathleen and Matt Domen, and far right, James Leitner.

MEMBER News Bits



Left, last month Milton Karahadian sent the frame for his in-progress '39 Plymouth pickup off to the builders. The project, he says, has been "five years in the making, but it should go fast now."

From the "Just Found It" files is this 1966 photo of John Signorelli (far right) and his Road Runner with Tony McCune at what John says may have been the first MCSD car show. John's Runner, which he still has today, was purchased at the old McCune Motors in National City. "Tony was very gracious to pose with me for this photo. He said he remembered the car."



Left, a very happy Kathy Silcott got a surprise Christmas visit from her son and her grandson.

Holiday Travelers



Above, Debbie and Bob Gough in Germany on their cruise that took them also to Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. Right, Debbie is all set for the mandatory safety drill.



Below, Debbie and Larry Johnson spent her birthday cruising in the Caribbean, with the ship posting birthday wishes and sending chilled champagne to their cabin.



Below, Julie & Jeff Walker going through the Panama Canal as part of their Costa Rica & Panama small-ship holiday adventure. Inset: Jeff decked out in all his camera gear.



Paul Wake shares the 2023 Christmas card he made, featuring him and his Road Runner and commemorating their first Christmas together.

News Briefs & Connections

Mopar Club Planning Meeting Jan. 15

Anyone interested in being a part of the club's 2024 Leadership Team is invited to attend the team's annual planning meeting on Monday, Jan. 15. Contact President Milton Karahadian for info, including location and time: mkarahadian@pointloma.edu

Former member hospitalized

The daughter of a longtime former member of Mopar Club SD has asked Kay Signorelli to advise the club that her mother, Linda Patterson, had been hospitalized (Kaiser in Kearny Mesa), with seriously declining health.

Swap Meet Returns / New Location

The all new San Diego Auto Swap and Car Show returns on Feb. 18 with a new location: in Chula Vista at the North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre (formerly Coors Amphitheatre, etc.), 2050 Entertainment Circle. Buy, sell, show and/or swap. Time is from 6am to 1pm, with food, music and trophies. Car show entry is \$15 (show or sale) is \$15; cycles (show or sale), \$10; and vendors prepaid are \$50, day of show \$60 (one booth includes 2 people). General admission is \$10, free for active military and kids 13 and younger. Signups and two-for-one coupons available on the website at carshowcalifornia.com. Open to all year and make vehicles.

35' Shed for Rent

Rick Bobick says a friend who lives in Vista recently sold his motorhome and is looking to rent the oversized shed, which is located on his property. The inside is 17 feet wide by 35 feet deep by 17 feet high. Rick said the shed is clean and dry, secure and accessible 24/7. Will accommodate motorhome, recreational vehicles, cars, etc. \$200/month cash rental, with a one-month refundable security deposit.



For information, contact Rick: rbobick5.7@gmail.com

Two New Dart Restoration Work Dates

The club's Dart Restoration project for the Depauw family continues, with a great deal of progress having been made. Project leader Jonathan Gbenekama says coming work party dates are Saturday, **Jan. 20**, and Saturday, **Feb. 3** — from 8am to noon.

The Dart's restoration was begun by John DePauw, a lifelong Mopar man who worked more than 25 years at the Jack Powell dealership as a service technician. John unexpectedly died in December 2022; it was his last wish that the restoration be completed. Mopar Club SD began making that happen last year.

To join the team, contact Jonathan: gbenekama@gmail.com, for info and address (in the northeast Escondido area).

Club Info & Connections

Club members can keep up-to-date via the club's website (moparclubsandiego.net); the monthly newsletter, The PentaGram, posted on the website; and via the club's person-to-person info and communication site on the Band app. We also have a presence on Facebook.

- Webmaster is Paul Polentz
webmaster@moparclubsandiego.net
- PentaGram editor is Julie Walker:
secretary@moparclubsandiego.net
- Band app coordinator is James Leitner
jl.steadycruisin@outlook.com
- Social media coordinator is Melissa Gbenekama
play4health@hotmail.com

Mopar News Connections

<https://media.StellantisNorthAmerica.com/mediacenter>

<https://www.stellpower.com>

<https://MoparInsiders.com>

<https://www.dodgegarage.com/news/tag/mopar>

<https://www.carscoops.com/tag/mopar>

<https://blog.mopar.com>

<https://www.autoblog.com/tag/mopar>

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO PROVIDED PHOTOS FOR THIS ISSUE:

Holly Ansmann, Matt Domen, Jonathan Gbenekama, Bob Gough, Debbie Gough, Debbie Johnson, Chavonne Karahadian, Milton Karahadian, Mary Signorelli, Kathy Silcott, Paul Wake and Julie Walker

HOLIDAY *Memories*

Hot Rod Holly's Christmas Day Cruise



Mopar clubbers who joined Holly's annual Christmas morning cruise to deliver warm clothes, blankets and toiletries to Alpha Project are from left: Jonathan, Ruby and Melissa Gbenekama, Jeff Walker, Tim Whittier, Bob and Debbie Gough, Cameron Whittier, Julie Walker and Cody Whittier. The cruise began at Pal Joey's, went through Balboa Park neighborhoods and on downtown to the homeless center.



Holly, above and left, at KUSI on Dec. 24, getting ready to do a promo for her cruise. Below, Steve Ramos and his Lil Red Devil truck were part of the classic car backdrop for the promo.



Above: Cameron, Cody & Tim Whittier, with Tim's '70 Runner, ready to cruise to Alpha Project



Above, the bed of Holly's '56 Chevy hot rod truck is filled with blankets donated by club members for distribution at Alpha Project.



Photos left: club members Steve Ramos and Tim Whittier with trophies they received at the brunch after the cruise, for Santa's Favorite Ride (Steve's) and for Santa's Best-Dressed Elf (Tim). Approximately 70 vehicles did the cruise, including at least a dozen Santas.

Mopar Club SD's Annual Christmas Party



Co-host Jim Signorelli



Co-host Kay Signorelli



LET'S GO *& show*

Check for event updates & additions:

www.sandiegoassociationofcarclubs.org

Facebook: @San Diego Association of Car Clubs

www.socalcarculture.com/events.html

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

CAR SHOWS

Sun, Jan 21: Broken Yolks for Car Show Folks

Broken Yolk, 9832 Mission Gorge Rd., Santee

\$25 pre-registered; Info: 619-201-8207

Sat, Feb. 3: San Juan Capistrano Rotary Show, 9am-1:30pm

SJC Sports Park, 25925 Camino del Avion

\$45 thru 1/16/24 / \$50 after — <https://sjcrotary.org/events>

Thu, Feb. 8: Morse High Back-to-School Nights, 5:30-7:30pm

Morse High, 6905 Skyline Dr., SD 92114

MoneyMaker7167@gmail.com / 619-201-8207

Sat. Feb 10: Locked & Loaded No Prep Drag Racing, 9am-5pm

Barona Drags, 1750 Wildcat Canyon Road

stonecoldofsd@yahoo.com

Sun, Feb. 18: SD Auto Swap & Car Show, 6:30am-1pm

North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre

2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista 91911

619-201-8207

Sat, Feb. 24: Kearny High Alumni Car Show, 9am-2pm

Kearny High, 1954 Komet Way. SD 92111 / 619-201-8207

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

Grace Christian School, 643 W. 13th Street, Escondido

www.graceschoolescondido.com / 760-747-3029

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

700-728 Woodrow Avenue 92114 San Diego (Skyline area)

justice4danielcoriz@yahoo.com

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

at Pala Casino — Apr. 13 Car Rally / Apr. 14 Car Show

Info: sarah@sautomuseum.org / 619-398-0311

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

Ellen Browning Scripps Park, 1100 Coast Blvd, La Jolla

619-233-5006

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

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

Sun, Apr 28: Race Car Swap Meet & Car Show

Barona Drags, 1750 Wildcat Canyon Rd / 619-201-8207

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

Campland on the Bay, 2211 Pacific Beach Drive

cruznm56@yahoo.com

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

Olde Highway 80 / Cindy: 619-504-2682

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

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

Sat, May 27: SD Auto Swap & Car Show, 6:30am-1pm

North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre

2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista 91911

619-201-8207

CARS & COFFEE EVENTS

WEEKLY:

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

at South O Brewing, 1775 S. Pacific Coast Hwy

First Saturday

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

First Sunday

Perris: 1-4pm thru Feb, 4-8pm Mar-Oct. Perris Airport,

2091 Goetz Rd / 909-838-4693

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

Second & Fourth Sundays

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

Third Sunday

Balboa Park: 7:30-9:30am, SD Auto Museum,

2080 Pan American Plaza

Carlsbad: noon-4pm, Spar Customs, 890 Palomar Airport Rd.

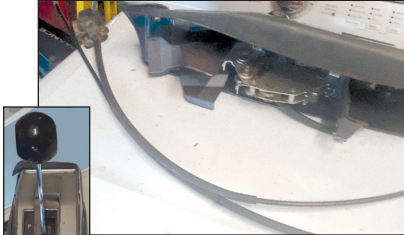
La Mesa: La Mesa Boulevard, 7-9am, between Spring St. & 4th

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

MARKET *Place*

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

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

FOR SALE:

Set of four (4) Dodge Ram polished alloy wheels with center caps. Excellent cond, no curb rash. May fit other applications. Need to make room: \$150.

Member Bill Baugh:
(858) 603-2130 / hemiboy@msn.com



FOR SALE: PARTS

Member Mick Schullo, who has almost competed redo of his '72 Dart Swinger, has "a bunch of parts for sale," including driver's side mirror, center console top, seat latches for '70 buckets, gauges, some original 340 parts ... and more.

Text Mick at: 619-569-7093

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

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

Car Crunched: Parts Needed

From Milton: My son's 2016 Challenger got hit in the rear, and I'm looking for some parts. Does anybody have or know of someone who has rear suspension parts, right and left quarter panels, trunk lid, rear bumper, etc.?

miltonkarahadian@ptloma.edu

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