# REUVING UP with Milton

The Newsletter of the Mopar Club/San Diego

# Penta Tam www.moparclubsandiego.net OCTOBER 2025

# The Mother Road: Memories Along Route 66

By: Milton Karahadian MCSD President

In preparation for our Route 66 trip organized by fellow Mopar club member Carl Parrick, we watched a few YouTube videos about the iconic highway and the countless stories tied to it.

The videos mentioned Cadillac Ranch, with vintage Cadillacs buried nose-in, halfway into the ground and covered in spray-painted graffiti; the Baghdad Café in the middle of nowhere in Newberry Springs CA., where a movie by the same name was filmed; Oatman, where donkeys freely rule the road; the renowned Route 66 Museum in Clinton. OK.; and the neon-lit diner in Albuquerque, NM. We visited all these places and more. But one line from a documentary stuck with me: "The most interesting thing is getting to know the people." At first, I didn't think much of it. That changed once we began meeting people along the way.

The first person who made a lasting

impression was Melanie, a worker at a small gift shop in Hackberry, AZ., located in what was once an old gas station, between Kingman and Seligman. She had moved from Las Vegas with her husband to start a new life. They built a new home together, but just two years later, tragedy struck—her husband suffered an aneurysm and was airlifted to Las Vegas. She never saw him alive again. After she shared her story, I prayed for her. Despite her loss, she radiated resilience and faith.

In Grants, NM., we met Elmer and his partner in the parking lot of our motel. Elmer knew Route 66 like the back of his hand, having spent his career traveling up and down the highway. He manages five Facebook pages dedicated to the road's history. He could tell you the names of historic motel owners and countless other details about life along The Mother Road.

That evening, I spoke with him at length. His knowledge was overwhelming, but what stood out most was his passion and his willingness to share. Though he eventually grew tired of chasing the road, he now devotes his time to landscape photography. The next night, we saw him again, and he surprised me with a small packet of commemorative Route 66 pins.

In Santa Rosa, NM., we visited a museum and gift shop where we met Ann. As we prepared to leave, I noticed what looked like a memorial service program.

## Route 66 Photos Pages 4 & 5



One of several new friends on Route 66: Melanie with photo of late husband

When I asked about it, she told me it was for her husband, who had passed away only two months earlier, after 39 years of marriage. His service had been held just two weeks before. Our group gathered around her, prayed, and offered comfort on a day she hadn't even planned to come in. It was one of those moments that felt divinely orchestrated.

Carl wanted us to encounter the authentic vintage 1930s–60s motels throughout the trip to get the full Route 66 experience. But our last motel was the nicest we had. By the time we reached Chicago, on our last night, tired of diner fare, we chose an Italian restaurant attached to the hotel. An older gentleman seated us, and we later discovered his name at the top of the menu—he was the owner.

Throughout dinner, which included appetizers, entrées, and two desserts, he shared his life story and how he came to Oak Park, IL. Giovanni's kindness and hospitality were unforgettable. We're fairly certain he didn't charge us for

everything, and the meal was so good that Chavonne declared it one of her all-time top 10.

Sure, there were the Mopar highlights—four Challengers cruising side by side down The Mother Road, reliving Americana at every stop. But more than the landmarks, more than the food, it was the people and the relationships that made this journey extraordinary. On Route 66, the real treasure wasn't the road itself, but the stories shared, and the memories made along the way. Those on the trip developed lasting friendships that we hope will last a lifetime.

Mopar's Forever Milton

# MOPAR CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

**EST. July 1993** 

#### **Officers**

President — Milton Karahadian

Vice President — Peter Dahlke

Treasurer — Debbie Gough

Secretary — Julie Walker

#### **Others**

All-American Car Show 2025
Jim Bowen

Car Club Council Rep Bill Baugh

> Cruisemeister Jim Signorelli

Social Director Sheri Hendrickson

#### **Information Services**

**Webmaster**Paul Polentz

Band App James Leitner

PentaGram Newsletter
Julie Walker

Facebook & Instagram
Jonathan Gbenekama

## **Important MCSD Election Info!!!**

Our next MCSD Board of Directors' election will be held during our Nov. 12 meeting, with members voting for president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. Anyone interesed in serving on the board is asked to contact Pres. Milton Karahadian before the Oct. 8 club meeting, when, per our bylaws, candidates are to be announced. Current VP Peter Dahlke and Treas. Debbie Gough are retiring from the board, so candidates for those posts are especially needed. Milton, and Sec. Julie Walker, are seeking re-election.

Contact Milton at mkarahad@pointloma.edu - please!

# Thank you to those who contributed to this issue:

Don Bone, Jim Bowen, Lee DeTro, Chris Evans, Jonathan Gbenekama, Bob Gough, Sherri Hendrickson, Milton Karahadian, James Maxwell, Paul Polentz, Chris Von Olnhausen, Kathy Silcott, Ralph Vagnone, Julie Walker and Tom Ziarkowski

#### **Mopar Online Connections**

Some options for connecting online with other Mopar folks with Mopars like yours or for information, suggestions and assistance regarding Mopars:

A Bodies: www.ForABodiesOnly.com

B Bodies: www.ForBBodiesOnly.com

C Bodies: www.ForCBodiesOnly.com

E Bodies: www.ForEBodiesOnly.com Modern Challengers: www.ChallengerForumz.com separated by Hellcat, Scat Packs, etc., and includes a section for classic Challengers Chargers, modern+classic: www.ChargerForumz.com

Note: You can read these online boards for free, but you must join to post (free) — or pay the annual fee and lose the ads!

For the A,B,C,E Boards: \$50 / year
For ForumZ Boards: Various levels

If you know of other helpful boards, do share!

#### **Club Contact Info:**

moparclub-info@moparclubsandiego.net

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

#### **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

# New Dodge Charger may be a hit after all

September 9, 2025 by David Zatz https://Stellpower.com

Reading social media posts, one would think that the Dodge Charger is the biggest failure since the "R body" Chryslers, except for one thing—they seem to be selling.

The Windsor, Ontario, plant that makes the Chrysler Pacifica and both forms of the Dodge Charger (EV and gasoline-powered) is putting on a third shift again, in the first quarter of 2026. This suggests that the six-cylinder Charger has been gathering orders at dealerships—especially the four-door version, which will come out after the two-door.

This would not be the first time a hit car starts off slowly: the Plymouth Reliant and Dodge Aries had sluggish sales for weeks until the mainstream versions left the factory floor and were eagerly purchased by buyers hungry for an American-feeling sedan that offered good mileage.

It's also possible that the company expects a belated resurgence in minivan sales, but the Pacifica (and its cheaper version, the Voyager / Caravan) has been around for quite a while, and it seems unlikely to suddenly require three shifts of production.

It's also possible that Chrysler will add more vehicles to the Windsor plant, despite tariffs that are likely to affect all Canadian trade starting in July 2026—or that the company plans to build two years' supply of vehicles before those tariffs kick in.

With all those possibilities in the air, the Charger-is-popular theory is supported by Unifor Local 444's words: "The forecast shows increased sales for the excellent products we build, and we'll be moving swiftly to prepare for this rampup in production."



# Chrysler adopts classic cartoon kids in new ad campaign

September 15, 2025 by David Zatz https://Stellpower.com

Chrysler will be doing a new multimedia campaign, including social media, with the "Peanuts™ gang" created by Charles Schultz. The first three videos, "The Next Adventure," "Perfect Pair" and "Ready, Set, Ride," are online, on Chrysler's video and social media channels, with a merchandise line coming within 2025.

The Peanuts comic was considered groundbreaking when it launched in 1950. While the cartoonist stopped creating new strips in early 2000, it remains in reruns in many newspapers.

At its height, the strips could be exposed to 355 million people in 75 countries.

It was one of the earlier strips to be

made into movie form (on-TV movies) and to have merchandising; it was praised by critics and may be the most influential comic of all time, cited as inspiration even by "alternate" comic strip writers. The hero of Peanuts, Charlie Brown, sometimes took a back seat to his beagle Snoopy, who had his own adventures; but both are well known cultural figures.

Chrysler brand CEO Chris Feuell described Peanuts and the Pacifica as the perfect pairing. Peanuts has not been updated since 2000, while the Pacifica debuted in 2017. Lucy holding a football for Charlie Brown to kick, and jerking it away at the last minute to leave Charlie kicking empty air, was even used as a simile for Chrysler's various canceled new crossovers and electric cars in recent years.

#### Chrysler Trivia Question / From Inland Mopar's Scatpack News-Sept 2025

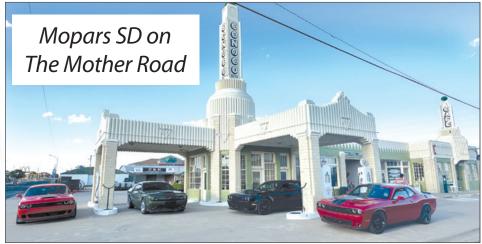
### Chrysler built "The Doomsday Machine." What is/was it?

**Answer:** In 1964, there was a rumor that Ford had built a Hemi-killer engine for racing in NASCAR. So.....Chrysler built one experimental Hemi engine it called "The Doomsday Machine."

The A-925 program Hemi engine had double overhead cams and four valves per cylinder. Ford submitted their engine to NASCAR to get permission to race it. NAS-CAR said no. Ford cried and threw a temper tantrum. So NASCAR also outlawed the Hemi. Chrysler then told all Chrysler racers not to race in NASCAR for the 1965 season. Since Chevrolet had already dropped out of racing, only Fords raced that season. Fans protested. Attendance dropped dramatically. By the middle of the season, NASCAR reluctantly allowed the Hemi to return. The fans returned. The Hemi wins returned.

\* Source: "Journey Through Hemi Land," by Pete Haldiman (MR. HEMI)









Below, Rhonda Pardue and Matt Cantor, at right, and on the left side of the photo, Jim Signorelli, Milton & Chavonne, and Carl Parrick. Below right, Jim finds a Dodge tailgate among the "treasures."



Mopar Club SD members leave their mark at Cadillac Ranch



Right: Milton and Chavonne







## Mopars SD on The Mother Road





ON THE CORNER



Above, donkeys rule in Oatman, AZ. Left, lunch with Lee DeTro on the way to Winslow, Arizona



END

Jim and Kay Signorelli



Chavonne and Milton in Chicago and at right, in Winslow.



Standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona, with the statue of The Eagles' Glenn Frey. From left, Mopar Club SD members Chavonne and Milton Karahadian, Chris Von Olnhausen, Matt Cantor, Kathy Jamieson, Rhonda Pardue, Bruce Jamieson, Jim Signorelli and Carl Parrick (plus two non-club member traveling companions, in back).



The end of the road, in Chicago

# MEMBER News Bits.



Front view of Mopar Club SD classics at our All-American Car Show 2025



56 Years until one night at Cruisin' Grand . . .

Don Bone's '69 Charger Hemi had ruled the road unscathed for almost 50 years, until Sept. 5 in Escondido when it was the victim of a hit-and-run. "My Charger was backed into by a hit-and-run driver. Fortunately, " Don says, "I managed to get her license plate, and Escondido PD tracked her down. But now I have the joy of dealing with her insurance that doesn't understand classic cars! I guess that's what happens when you drive old cars in today's crazy world!" Don's had this car since way back in the day.



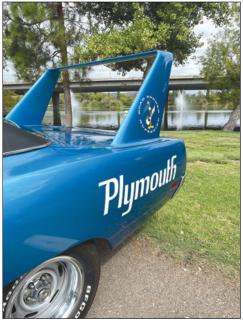


## Mopar Club San Diego's Sept. 27 Cars & Coffee . . .

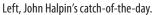


## ... and the club's Santee Lakes picnic that followed





Above, Milton Karahadian's Super Bird at the Santee Lakes Recreation Area.





Nichole Wilson, Peter Dahlke and Chavonne Karahadian



Michael Montag and Adam Whitcomb



Lots of picnic goods and goodies



**BBQ Chef Milton** 



Debbie & Bob Gough and Sheri Hendrickson

# 10PAR SD Meet-Ups

DYNO DAY: Oct. 11

The club's "A Day at the Dyno Shop" will be Saturday, Oct. 11, also in Santee, for members who'd like to find out how much horsepower their Mopar puts to the rear wheels. Participation will be first-come, first-served at The Dyno Shop, 10042 Prospect Ave., Santee, beginning at 8am. The cost for 2 dyno machine pulls per vehicle is expected to be \$100, cash. More information at the club's Oct. 8 meeting at Casa Machado.

#### **OUR CARS & COFFEES Oct-Dec**

Dates are Oct. 25, Nov. 22 and Dec. 27 in the Pathways Church parking lot, 9636 Carlton Hills Blvd, Santee,7-9am.

#### **CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 13**

Annual holiday party with potluck, Naughty Santa gift grab, 50/50 and a free raffle ticket per member is scheduled for Saturday afternoon Dec. 13. Family membrs and prospective club members welcome. More info to come.

### DodgeGarage.com LINKS

James Maxwell has two new items on DodgeGarage.com

• Part III" of Mopars in May:

https://www.dodgegarage.com/news/article/events/ 2025/08/more-classics-and-vintage-muscle-mopar-vehiclesfrom-ontario-ca

• And an "ISKY 104" story, about Ed Iskenderian at 104: https://www.hagerty.com/media/people/celebrating-ediskenderians-104th-birthday-with-the-man-himself/

#### An ad from the early 70s: You coulda had a champion Mopar



#### All-American Car Show 2025 LINKS

From member Lee DeTro:

Here are the links to the Lee Eagleeye Photography Facebook page photos I took at AACS 2025. Six links: 5 with people and cars and 1 for the trophy winners

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/ ?vanity=61560851482003&set=a.122192048876361716

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/ ?vanity=61560851482003&set=a.122192051786361716

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https://www.facebook.com/media/set ?vanity=61560851482003&set=a.122193549320361716

Lee says: Sorry it took so long. Enjoy.

The above links are also available on the club's website, courtesy of Webmaster Paul Polentz.

Go to www.MoparClubSanDiego.net, and once you enter the site, click on the Club Activities tag at the top of the page and use the All American Car Show drop-down. If you don't do Facebook, click the "x" to see the photos.

# SHOWING & Sharing Greatest Show on Turf- Sept. 20

WINNERS! Two of our club Mopars made it into the Top 20 at the Greatest Show on Turf: Dan Harp's '67 Coronet (above) and Tom Ziarkowski's '67 Plymouth

Barracuda convertible (below). Inset above left Hot Rod Holly presents Dan with his award.





John Campbell's '49 Chrysler convertible



Jerry Harrison and his '65 Barracuda



Paul Polentz's '69 Road Runner



Matt Domen's '89 Jeep Grand Wagoneer



Bob Gough's '67 Barracuda



Bill Baugh's '66 Satellite Hemi



Mopar Club SD members at Greatest Show on Turf included, from left, Tom Ziarkowski, Bob Gough, Jerry Harrison, Dave Russell, Bill Baugh and Matt Domen

# SD Bayfair - Sept. 14



Tom Ziarkowski's '67 Barracuda convertible and Dave Russell's '66 Barracuda at the San Diego Bayfair Show downtown.

# SHOWING & sharing

# Cops & Rodders - Sept. 28



Above, all from 1967: Dan Harp's Coronet 500, Bob Gough's Barracuda and Tom Ziarkowski's Barracuda 340 convertible.



Ready to order breakfast: from left, John Halpin, Kathy Silcott, Julie & Jeff Walker and Paul Polentz. Right, Paul with his recent find, a Wile E. Coyote/Road Runner blanket. Below, MCSD cars in two rows.

#### WINNER!

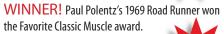
Right, John Halpin with his 2024 Chrylser 300 SRT that won Favorite Modern Muscle. John says that in 30 years, it's the first award he's won.



Kathy Silcott with SD's The Highwayman Thomas Weller and Charger Steve.











# 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://goodoleboyssandiego.com/current-event-calendar

#### **CAR SHOWS**

#### Sat, Oct. 4: Synister SoCal Breast Cancer Event, 1pm

J Street Marina, 980 Marina Way, Chula Vista Raffles, games, food, vendors & more.

#### Sun, Oct. 12: El Cajon Elks #1962 Car Show, 9am-3pm

1400 E. Washington Ave / \$35 by Sep. 40 / \$40 after Pancake breakfast 9am-10:30am, rootbeer floats, etc. Info: 619-985-7595

#### Sat, Oct. 18: Clairemont's 75th Anniv. Celebration Car

**Show, 1-4pm**, Clairemont Town Square, 4821 Clairemont Dr. Pre-'75 vehicles only / Reg online: www.purplepass.com/events/322086-clairemont's-75th-anniversary-celebration-car-show-oct-18th-2025

#### Sat, Oct. 18: Santee Trunk or Treat, 9am-noon

Gary's Auto Service, 10139 Prospect St., Santee Candy, costumes, prizes / Info: Gary at 951-553-6479

#### Sat, Oct. 25: Ramona AutoFest, 10am-1pm

Ramona's street fair style car show: Hwy 67 closed from 6th-8th All cars, all years / music, food & fun / Info: 619-201-8207

#### Sun, Oct. 26: Belmont Park Fall Car Show, 3-6pm

\$20 entry / trophies, best dress car award, music, food and free candy for those who wish to hand it out. Socalcarculture.com

#### Sun, Nov. 9: East Cty Cruisers Holiday Drive & Car Show,

**9am-2pm,** Bates Nut Farm-15954 Woods Valley Rd, Valley Ctr All makes, all years / bring unwrapped toy. Info: 619-201-8207 or www.eastcountycruisers.com

#### Sat, Nov. 15: Mopars at MoTech

MoTech Performance, 41715 Elm St., Suite 301, Murrieta Hosted by MoTech & Inland Mopar Club. Caravan to be set up

#### **CRUISE NIGHTS**

**EL CAJON:** 5-7:30pm Wednesday nights through Oct. 22 *NO ARRIVAL PRIOR to 3PM!* 

OCEANSIDE: 6-9pm second Wednesdays through Dec. 10

#### **CARS & COFFEE**

#### WEEKLY:

#### Saturdays

Bonita: 7-9am, Bonita Donuts, 4414 Bonita Rd Carlsbad: 7-9am, 7130 Avenida Encinitas Pt. Loma: 7:30-10am, 2230 Shelter Island Drive

#### **Sundays:**

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

Lakeside: 7-10am, 9760 Wintergardens Blvd.

#### **BI-MONTHLY & MONTHLY**

#### Second Wednesday

Oceanside: South O Brewery, 1575 South Pac. Coast Hwy, thru December, 6-9pm,

#### First Saturday

Clairemont: STP Bar & Grill, 10am-1pm,

5487 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

San Diego: The Pub's Classic BBQ, 11am

The Pub in Bay Park, 2415 Morena Blvd

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

#### Third Saturday

Midway District: Classic Malt Shop, 3-8pm,

3625 Midway Dr., Suite B

Jamul: TSC Tractor Supply, 8-10am

3018 Jefferson Rd. (thru Oct. 18)

#### **Fourth Saturday**

Santee: Mopar Club SD Cars & Coffee, 7-9am

9636 Carlton Hills Blvd. / Pathways Church pkg lot

#### First & Third Saturdays

San Diego: The Pub's Classic Car Gathering,

2415 Morena Blvd, 11am-1pm

#### **Second & Fourth Saturdays**

San Clemente: 10:30am, Judge Brewery,

924 Calle Negocio, Ste. C

#### First Sunday

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

#### Second Sunday

Kearny Mesa: dawn-9:30am, JBA Speed Shop,

5675 Kearny Villa Rd

Oceanside: 4-7pm, In-n-Out Burger,

5605 Frazee Rd.

#### **Third Sunday**

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

2080 Pan American Plaza

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

#### **Fourth Sunday**

Chula Vista: 11:30am-2pm, Black Angus, 707 E St.

# 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

#### **FREE! Brake Parts**

- Front caliper brackets, calipers, rotors, master cylinder and proportioning valve from '73 Duster.
- Rear backing plates, drums, shoes and all hardware from maybe '69 Dart 8 3/4 axle.
- Rotors and drums have plenty of meat left in them! All were working great when I replaced them. Jim / bowen1@cox.net



#### **FOR SALE:**

340-360 Small block 587 heads Rebuilt — \$250 Message: 858-204-6988





#### **JBA** Performance Center

Custom Engines • Dyno Tune Challenger Body Kits • Service & Repair Mopar Exhaust Systems Performance Parts • Consignment Center

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

#### **FOR SALE:**

Built to the Hilt—Sleeper 2006 Charger SRT8 custom-built by Modern Muscle producing 750 HP. With 398 Stroker, transmission designed by Southern Hotrod, 3500 stall speed converter, D-1 procharger, supercharger race cam, Ross custom pistons, custom fuel system, Detroit lockers, Cooks headers, MagnaFlow exhaust. Less than 3,900 miles / Asking \$39,900 Call/text member Aaron K: 619/757-3965





#### **FOR SALE:**

#### **Club Member has Mopar Engine Parts:**

- 440 standard crankshaft \$100
- RB 'LY' MS3049 connecting rods (8), resized, balanced, Moly rod bolts: \$75/all
- B/RB exhaust manifolds (not hi-performance): \$50/both
- 8-bolt steel billet (RB) 143-tooth flywheel: new: \$150

Email: Greeniron32@aim.com

With notice, I can bring to a club meeting



Large collection of Mopar memorabilia + some cool trick original and NOS parts. Scan the barcodes above or email for links to the photo gallery. 10% off all prices on the items listed on eBay. Email questions or photos of what you're interested in to tonymopar@aol.com.

Club member Tony D'Agostino

#### **FOR SALE**

2003 Dodge Dakota: quad cab, runs, new tires, 5-spd, trans lost 1st 3 gears. Approx. 170k miles. For details: Bob, 619-750-2954

#### **Mobile Welding**

**Frame Connectors Spring Relocation Rear End Narrowing** 



**Club Member Steve Williams** 619-988-0778

Ralph Vagnone, Realtor

**Balboa Real Estate** 301 W. Broadway, Ste 80, SD

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



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