

REVVING UP with Milton

The Newsletter of the Mopar Club / San Diego

PentaGram

www.moparclubsandiego.net

JULY 2022

It's Finally Show Time!

By: Milton Karahadian, MCSD President

Saturday, July 16: The day we have been waiting almost a year for has come. We have encouraged, planned and made preparations for this year's All American Car Show (AACS). I am so proud of the way each of you in leadership and those who have offered to help have stepped up to create a great show in the Finest City in the finest show location, comparable to Pebble Beach.

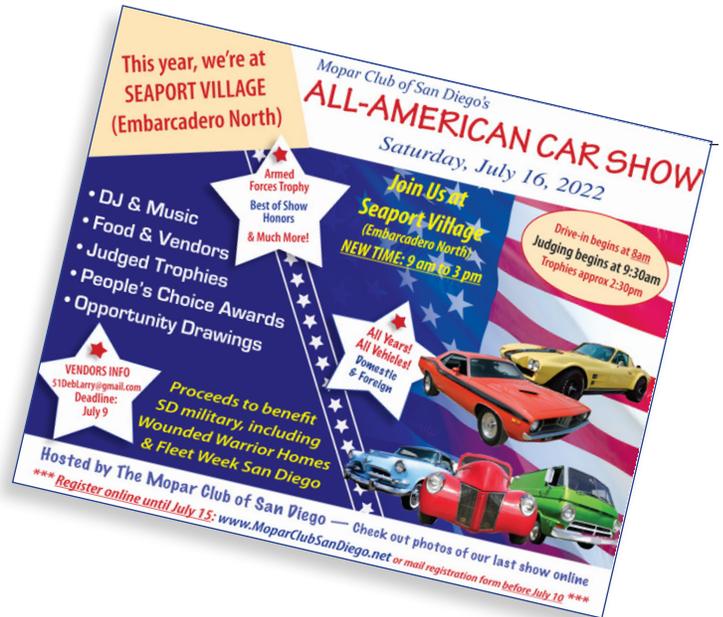
As I look over the volunteer list, I see 50 club members have signed up; that is so exciting, and I'm so proud of our members who have stepped up. Everything from early-morning setup through traffic control, registration table, raffle booth, t-shirt sales, and judging, trash pick up to teardown.

We do, however, still need some more volunteers: five more for traffic control and six more judges. According to Bob Gough, who is heading up the judging team, most anyone can be a judge because the judging system is quite easy.

Before you know it, the 2022 AACS will be in the bag! And we'll be donating our proceeds to our two military beneficiaries: Wounded Warrior Homes (serving post-9/11 PSD vets) and Fleet Week San Diego (serving all local military). We're hoping we can top last year's almost \$11,000. With your help, we can do that!

Many thanks to the Walkers and Johnsons who have put in many, many hours of work for the amazing show, with Jeff as chair and Larry as his co-chair, Debbie working with vendors and Julie in charge of the raffles. Thanks also to other AACS Committee members, including Bob Gough, Bill Baugh and Joe Bourdage.

Since we have a new location from years past, there



will be extra work; however, the cost of past venues absorb a large part of the money we raise. The benefit, according to Jeff, is that this show will cost little to put on this year, thus increasing the amount of money for our beneficiaries. This is a huge win for all! And it is a beautiful venue and gives Mopar Club San Diego an opportunity to show the city just how awesome this club is.

BELOW IS THE SCHEDULE OF THE SHOW

5:30-9:30am	Setup
6:00-9:30am	Traffic Control and Parking
6:30-7:45am	Vendor Setup
6:30-9:30am	Registration
7:00-2:00pm	Raffles, Tee Shirt Sales
9:30-11:30am	Judging
11:30-2:00pm	Vote & Awards Tallying
2:00-3:00pm (approx)	Awards & 50/50 drawing
3:00-4:00pm (approx)	Teardown

IMPORTANT SHOW INFORMATION

Some important information Show Chair Jeff Walker wants you to know:

- Club members who plan to show a car to must be registered. A few club service vehicles will remain onsite after setup, but members' non-show vehicles should be

Continue on next page

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.net

Secretary — Julie Walker
secretary@moparclubsandiego.net

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.net

Facebook & Instagram
Melissa Gbenekama
play4health@hotmail.com

Mark your calendar for the club's annual Christmas party. The date is Dec. 17, once again hosted by Kay & Jim Signorelli

Show Time Continued from page one

in public parking or on the street. To register for the show: MoparClubSanDiego.net (for PayPal link) or use Eventbrite.com All American Car Show.

FOR THOSE VOLUNTEERING

What to bring: your own chair! Put your name on it somehow. We have none ordered due to delivery time issues. Suggested: a hat, sunscreen, and wear walking shoes.

If you're working the Raffle Booth, the Inside Registration Table or the Tee Shirt sales, it can get breezy there!!! Suggested: bring a long-sleeve lightweight cover-up.

Vehicles allowed onsite are cars up to large pickup sizes; no onsite vehicle trailer unloading or parking. Use nearby street or public (fee) parking lots to unload and leave trailer. If you plan in advance and want to leave your trailer, contact Jamil Jones at the ACE parking lot (619-481-9068) and tell him you are with the car show, and he will help you. Then drive show vehicle from there to the show.

To date, we have almost 180 entrees, and I have my fingers crossed we'll end up with least 250 cars. There are only 33 members signed up. and we should have many more. Please register via the above Internet sites or at the meeting this Wednesday, July 12.

I know we will work together with grace for each other and for our show participants. Always remember who we are doing this for, those military women and men who are serving or have served and especially in honor of thos who have given their lives for us.

Let's Go!

Mopars Forever
MK

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

Family Treasures

By: Julie Walker

Jim Bowen's Dad wasn't a car guy, but he knew an awesome car when he saw one, trading in a '60 Bugeye Sprite on a new Barracuda when Plymouth first introduced them in 1964. And if Dad could see it now, he'd be blown away—and undoubtedly, very pleased. In fact, the Barracuda just took Best of Show at El Cajon's "Muscle Cars" Cruise Night on June 29.

That brand new, first-year Barracuda was a red hardtop, had a 273 under the hood with a push-button automatic and all the options available, all two of them: power steering and an AM radio. The price was about \$2,900. Jim was 11 when his Dad bought the car, and Jim still has it today—although there has been some fine-tuning, because Jim for sure *IS* a car guy—a talent passed along to son Jack, also a Mopar club member.

Jim and Jack own two family treasures, and while Jim's '64 Barracuda is once again an eye-catching gem, Jack's '73 Dodge Custom 100 is a diamond in the rough that's been in the family since 1980(ish). It's seen a change or two since then, with a powerful connection to Jim's Barracuda under the truck's hood. The Dodge undoubtedly looked better when Jack's Mom bought it some 40 years ago, but Jack has it now, as a driver and a work in progress.

The Barracuda has always been a driver. It was the family car when Jim's Dad bought it; his Mom was the primary driver. Jim was mechanically inclined at an early age and recalls burning up some of the car's electrical wiring "before I could drive,



MCSO members Jim Bowen, right, and son Jack with Jim's fully restored 1964 Barracuda

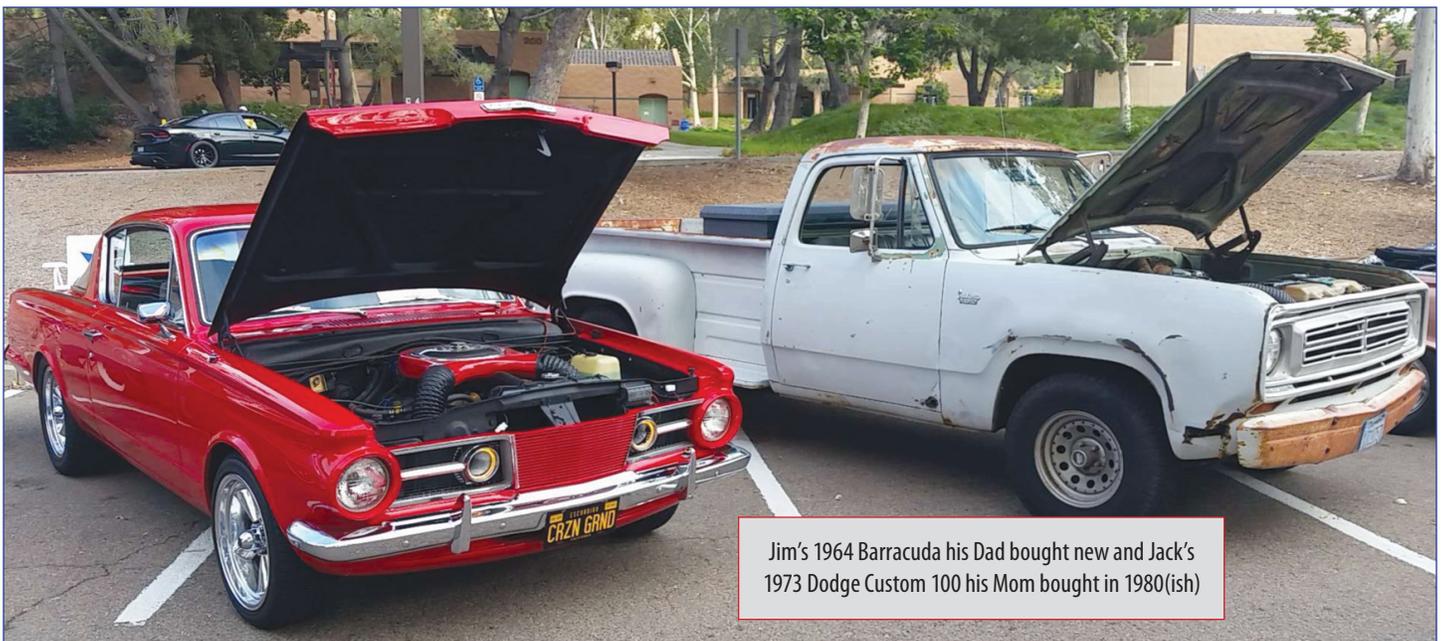
installing a reverb unit." That mishap didn't slow him down.

He learned more about cars, he says, by reading *Mechanics Illustrated*, *Hot Rod* and shop manuals, "and by asking the right folks for help."

Jim learned to drive on both the Barracuda and his brother's '67 Dodge Dart "with a Slant 6 with three on the tree." He later changed out the 273 in the Barracuda for a 318. In 1971, he bought the car from his Dad for \$500. It became his daily driver, including hauling a trailer to and from UC Berkeley twice—using a bumper trailer hitch.

In 1980, Jim pulled out the automatic 318 and re-installed it with a four-speed behind it. And in 1985(ish), he swapped out the 318 for the 340 in it today. The Barracuda got a complete

Continued on next page



Jim's 1964 Barracuda his Dad bought new and Jack's 1973 Dodge Custom 100 his Mom bought in 1980(ish)



Continued from previous page
 paint job in 2003-4, replacing the original red with Viper Red used on Vipers of the late 90s, and the wheel wells were re-arched with fenders from a junkyard.

Finally, in 2019-20, Jim took the car apart and re-built the engine, pistons, cams and heads and swapped in a 4-speed transmission out of fellow-member Jeff Walker's '68 GTX (which was getting a 5-speed). That's Jim's '64 Barracuda today.

And that 318 4-speed that Jim pulled out of the Barracuda in 1985? That ended up in the '73 Dodge Custom 100 that son Jack has now, after the truck's 273 blew up on the way to a junkyard to find parts. "The Barracuda towed it back with a tow strap down Pomerado Road in Poway," Jim says. And Jack adds, "A bit dodgy!" prompting laughs. That engine is still in the truck today.

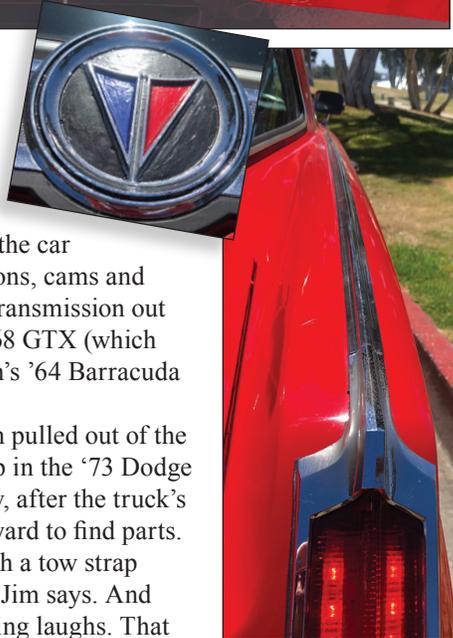
When Jack's Mom bought that truck in the 80s, it had been a Colorado Forest Service truck that, according to the build sheet that came with it, came from the factory with a 318. However, it had a 273 in it when she got it to haul dirt and house parts when work was being done on her house. "Otherwise, it was in excellent shape," Jack says.

After being a workhorse for years, that '73 Dodge was sidelined, and when Jack learned to drive, it was in his Mom's 2000 Dodge Ram 1500 (5.9L) and a minivan. He says that while he's "always enjoyed climbing around in the truck," it wasn't until he learned to drive that he began to see cars as more than just a mode of transportation. And when his Dad/Jim began working on returning the Barracuda to glory in 2003-4, it became a father-son effort.

Jack says he just sort of took over the '73 Dodge years ago. "The truck runs well. No noises, all cylinders fire," he says, then laughs: "Well, runs well when it starts," admitting it has some starter issues right now. He hopes to have it running smoothly for the club's All-American Car Show.

While Jim's career has been as a software developer (working for Raytheon), Jack got his degree in mechanical engineering and is currently working with HVAC equipment.

Jack is a San Diego State graduate (2020), where he was part of the Formula SAE Race Team (Society of Automotive Engineers) that built a race car. He primarily worked on the fuel system. "Probably the most stock part of that car was the engine," a 4-cylinder out of a Yamaha motorcycle. "It was decently powerful; very quick!" The team tested the car in



Some of Jim's memories with the Barracuda

- Severely damaging the front-left suspension on Woods Valley Road—many years ago, before they smoothed out that curve
- Using clamp-on bumper hitches (no small feat with the tiny bumpers) when I towed U-Haul trailers back and forth to Berkeley twice (It did fine)
- Overheating in the desert (Despite claims that "they don't make them like the used to," cooling systems have come a LONG WAY in the past 50 years)
- Freezing in the desert after the heater core was removed because it leaked...probably caused by overheating on a previous trip
- Denting the roof while sitting on it to watch the Space Shuttle land at Edwards AFB
- ROAD TRIPS!



parking lots on campus and then raced it in competition in Lincoln, Nebraska, placing 28th out of some 60 cars. "We completed all events, and we finished!" It seems previous SDSU teams' cars caught fire, so Jack helped his team chalk up a big win of sorts.



MEMBER *News Bits*

Vic Whitaker, a relatively new Mopar Club SD member, began restoring his '66 Charger in June, after acquiring it in August 2021 from his uncle, the car's second owner since about 1970. The interior is out, Vic is prepping the car for paint—and is looking for recommendations for paint and body work. He says there's "some rust, but not a ton." He'll be pulling the engine next, and again he welcomes recommendations for good engine builders, and for dash pad and door panel restoration. He can be contacted at VictorWhitaker@cox.net



Left photos: The club bid farewell to member Lynne Kotas at the June meeting. She and her Charger are relocating to Washington state, but she will remain a member from afar. Far left, Lynne with Rhonda Pardue, who created the "Finish Line" cake in her honor and then shared with the club. Immediate left, Lynne with club President Milton Karahadian



Left and below: Paul and Paula Polentz have added a third Mopar to their "stable." It's a 2022 Chrysler Touring L, a fully loaded V6 with an 8-speed automatic. About the only option missing is a moon roof. The 300 replaces a 2003 Toyota Camry and joins Paul's '69 Road Runner and their '98 Ram, both bought new. Paula still has her '87 Camaro Z28 (bought new), which she soon will gift to her niece for her sons to fix up and drive

A small but mighty group of club members and their Mopars will travel all or part of Route 66 next month starting Aug. 22.

Joining Carl Parrick will be Kathy & Bruce Jamieson, Debbie & Bob Gough, Kay & Jim Signorelli, Julie & Jeff Walker and Hot Rod Holly.

So far, we know the Mopars will include 4 modern Challengers: Parrick's, Walkers', Goughs' and the Signorellis' Hellcat.

SHOWING & sharing

CAJON CLASSIC CRUISE NITE June 29

Right: Jim Bowen and his '1964 Barracuda, which won Best of Show on Muscles Cars night in El Cajon on Thursday, June 29. The car, which has been in the family since his Dad bought it new, has been restored in recent years by Jim, who says this is the first trophy his car has won. See story, page 3.



HRE CAR SHOW June 18



Kathy Silcott and "Big Mr. White," her 2021 Hellcat Challenger, at the HRE Performance Wheels Open House in Vista. The show was mostly exotics, with one incredible Mopar!

MUSCLE CARS OFF MAIN Vista, July 9



Above, Doug Weast and his '70 Cuda and below, Rick Bobick and his '65 Coronet Hemi at the Muscle Cars off Main show in Vista. Also there, Julie & Jeff Walker and their '70 Challenger.



FATHERS DAY: June 19



Above right: Proud Papa Jonathan Gbenekama lets Ruby take the wheel of his Cuda at the Fathers Day car show in Pacific Beach. Above left: Debbie Kane's '68 Charger.



Above: Jim Signorelli's Hellcat Challenger.



Above: Debbie Johnson waves from behind the Johnsons' '72 Challenger (engine shown, right).



Above: Dave Russell's '66 Barracuda which he bought new, plus engine close-up.



Above left and right: Bill Baugh's '66 Hemi Satellite with engine close-up



Left: Carl Parrick's '68 GTX

MOPAR NIGHT at Cruisin' Grand July 8



Left: Cruisin' Grand winners Kristy & Jerry Keller with their '71 Challenger; and above right: George Bittle and his Dodge A-100.

Mopar Club SD Night at Cruisin' Grand in Escondido showcased close to 60 Mopars. Among the five cruise night winners were three Mopars, all Dodges—and two of them went to MCSD members' cars.



Far left: John Joseph, Kathy Silcott. Center: Debbie & Bob Gough, and above: Julie Walker with the Walkers' '70 Challenger 440 SixPak.



Above: Jonathan Gbenekama and below: Chavonne Karahadian & Cuda



Above: Karahadians' '65 Chrysler 300L and Gbenekamas' '66 Fury. Below, together for dinner, from left, Eric and Brenda Bense, Jeff and Julie Walker, Debbie Gough, Debbie Johnson and Bob Gough.



LET'S GO *& show*

Check for event updates & additions:

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

CAR SHOWS

**** **Sat Jul 16: MCSD's All-American Car Show, 9am-3pm**
 Seaport Village (Embarcadero North). Set-up Vols: be there by 5:30am; all others, by 6am.

Sat, Aug 13: Main Street America, 10am-3pm
 Seaport Village/Embarcadero North. Benefits SD Center for the Blind. Pre-reg only: \$35. Info: cjm01lawt@gmail.com
 www.cocsd.com/msa-2022-registration

Sun, Aug 21: Broken Yolks for Car Show Folks, 8am-2pm
 Broken Yolk, 2963 Jamacha Rd, El Cajon; music, trophies, raffles. \$20 pre-reg; \$25 day of show. 619-201-8207

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

Sat, Sept. 10: Greatest Show on Turf, 9am-3pm
 So. Clairemont Community Park, 3605 Clairemont Dr. All cars, all years. awards, rides, food trucks, music
 Sponsored by SD Association of Car Clubs.
 To register: www.sdacc.net

Sun, Sept. 18: Car Show at SD Bayfair, 10am-3pm
 Vehicles will stage from 8-10am: all vehicles, all years
 Car w/2 people: \$25, day of \$30
 www.carshowcalifornia.com

Sun, Oct. 16: Best Damn Car Show, 8am-2pm
 Pal Joeys, 5147 Waring Rd: all vehicles, all years
 Music, raffle, trophies; \$30 / Info: (619)-980-6699

Sat, Oct. 22: Ramona Senior Center Show, 10am-2pm
 Grace Community Church, Ramona
 Info: Leroy Chubb, ktl572@aol.com

Sun, Oct. 23: Cops & Rodders, 7:30am-3pm
 Seaport's Embarcadero North, \$30
 Info: Bill Baugh, hemiboy@msn.com

CRUISE NIGHTS & MORE

Mopar Club SD meet-ups at "The Slab"

Clairemont: Saturdays, 6:45pm-9pm Diane Center at Clairemont Mesa Blvd & Diane Ave, Behind Starbucks, near a huge square cement slab; Carmen's Mexican restaurant nearby.

First Mondays thru summer, 5-7pm

San Diego Assoc. of Car Clubs Meet & Greet
 Pal Joey's/Fosters Freeze lot, 5129 Waring Road, SD

Wednesdays: Cajon Classic Cruise, 5-8pm

Main & Magnolia, El Cajon ; CajonClassicCruise.org
 * Sept. 21: Mopar Jungle

Second Wednesdays: 6-9pm

Oceanside: 1575 South Coast Highway

Thursdays thru Aug. 24, 5-8pm: La Mesa Classic Car Show

La Mesa Blvd, from 4th to Spring St.

Third Thursdays thru Sept: Encinitas Cruise Night

5:30-7:30pm Highway 101 between D and K streets

Fridays thru Sept: Cruisin' Grand, 4-9pm

Escondido: Grand Avenue + adjacent streets
 Pre '74 cars only; *Mopar Night: July 8

First Saturdays: 11am-2pm

Poway: 12890 Gregg Court (In-n-Out Burger)

Third Sundays: Pacific Islander Beer Co, 1-5pm

8665 Argent St, #B, Santee; Must RSVP by text: (619) 253-0524

CARS & COFFEE

Saturdays: Carlsbad: 7am-9am 7130 Avenida Encinas

Sundays:

1. Escondido: 8am-11am, Kit Carson Pk, 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy
2. Escondido: 9-11am, Visual Detailing, 2180 Meyers Ave.
3. Pt. Loma: 8am-10pm, 2750 Dewey Road

Second Sundays: 5:30am-9:30am

JBA Speed Shop, 5675 Kearny Villa Road

Third Sundays:

1. La Mesa Boulevard, 7-9am, between Spring and 4th
2. SD Auto Museum, 7:30-9:30am
 2080 Pan American Plaza in Balboa Park

Photos in this issue provided by: Jack Bowen, Jim Bowen, Jonathan Gbenekama, Milton Karahadian, Kathy Silcott, Jeff Walker and Julie Walker

MARKET *Place*

FOR SALE . . .



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

FOR SALE . . .

MOPAR A-822 4-speed

Hemi case, E-body housing,
23-spline input, 30-spline output. Completely
disassembled, ready for a rebuild: \$800.
Price including rebuild & assembly: \$1,100
Email MCSD member Jim: bowen1@cox.net
Pictures upon request

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

FREE . . . TO MCSD MEMBER

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

FOR SALE . . .



Stock cast iron manifold 383 — \$275
Bob Martello — moparbobm@cox.net

Please Support Those Who Support Us



SYNTHETIC LUBRICANTS FOR ALL APPLICATIONS
ULTRA-FINE AIR & OIL FILTERS

JIM SIGNORELLI
AUTHORIZED REP & CLUB MEMBER
760 / 789-4445

Mobile Welding

Frame Connectors
Spring Relocation
Rear End Narrowing



Club Member
Steve Williams
619-988-0778

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

Ralph Vagnone, Realtor
Balboa Real Estate
301 W. Broadway, Ste 80, SD

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

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

Your Torqueflite Specialist



Want it stock or modified?
Club member Steve Karaginides
can build it! (619) 987-3245

CASA MACHADO

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD



Lunch
Dinner
Sunday Brunch
Banquets
Catering

3750 John Montgomery Drive
San Diego 858/292-4716 fax 858/292-7060
www.casamachado.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