

Music City Mopar Club

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Monthly Feature

MEMBER'S MOPARS

Growing up in my teenage years with TV's "Dukes of Hazzard" really helped me get exposed to Mopars. I fell in love with that B-body style. At my church, a fellow named Mark owned this immaculate '69 Charger. I was hooked. His dad was a Dodge dealer, and eventually it came up for sale. I dragged my Dad down to the dealership hoping he saw what I did in this machine. Dad said, "No Way!" With an asking price of \$2800.00 with 88,000 miles. It was out of a 15 year old price range, who was a part-time stock boy. About a year later just before turning 16, I bought a good looking '71 GTX. But deep in my heart I still lusted for a '69 Charger. In my high school parking lot, Mopars were scarce, but my GTX became feared and respected among the Mustang and Camaro crowd. My nickname among my peers was "440". . .



Fast forwarding now eleven years. I stopped by the Dodge dealership to talk to Mark (who is now General Manager) about today's Mopars and yesterdays. I wondered if he knew the whereabouts of that beautiful Charger. Fate or Destiny, one of the service technicians had bought it from a fellow dying of cancer. I asked if it was "For Sale". "Never, NO!" he replied. Two weeks later I got a call from him saying he would sell for \$2000.00. With checkbook in hand, I found his address and went for a test drive. It was ragged pretty bad but my teenage dreams was about to be fulfilled on my 27th birthday. I'm 31 now and 2 years ago the body underwent a resto performed by Nortons Restorations. Mr. Norton told me that my Charger had attracted more attention and inquiries from passersby than any car he has worked on. He even thought of putting a "Not for Sale" sign on it to tell the people before hand. Mechanically it has a 383, 4-barrel, automatic. The interior will be my next project when extra funds become available. Also a note for Charger owners '66 thru '74, there's a Charger Registry you can get a application by writing P.O. Box 184, Greenbay, VA 23942. Registration is free, membership optional.

Thomas Williams
885 Dry Rock Road
Westmoreland, TN 37186

FYI

I want to thank each member that attended the meeting. The more members that attend makes a better meeting.

Our first \$25 winner was Jay Labarre who had just joined the club. Talk about beginner luck. This month it could be you.

The drag race was voted down. I want to thank Bill and Robert for working so hard to present the proposal to the club. If any member wants to participate in a Mopar Club Night at the drags they need to get in touch with them to make arrangements.

You will receive your bylaws with their changes by separate mail. Please read & study them so you will know all the rules for membership.

For you new members, please notice the sponsors that are on the ad page. Use them whenever possible. They helped the club and now we need to help them.

The March meeting will be at Andretti's on March 23rd. Meet and greet at 12:30. Official meeting to start at 2:00 P.M..

This years show will be held at Andretti's. Since this is the first show to be held there. I anticipate numerous problems with parking show cars and placing vendors. But nothing we can't overcome. Extra attractions are in the planning stage and will be announced when completed. We need members to help with the planning and are waiting for volunteers.

Summer is almost here and we need suggestions where to have our meetings, picnics, and cruises to different places are just a few ideas.

We need pictures and stories for Members Mopars. If you want your vehicle on the cover please send in a picture and short story of your idea Mopar. It doesn't have to be a show winner. It can be under construction. Let people know what you have.

See you at the March Meeting!

Butch Price

Answers to the Pop Quiz

1. Yes, the Chrysler Thunderbolt
2. 1934
3. 4 Years, 1934-1937
4. 1951
5. 1957
6. 1968

FYI

From the Financial Secretary

The new executive board is very excited about the upcoming year with lots of new ideas to put to work.

We have all been working very hard since we found out for sure where the show is going to be. As previous executive board members already know there is a lot of hard work involved in putting on a show. I personally think John Andretti's CarBeQue is an excellent choice for the car show. If you have any ideas or suggestions about the show or upcoming events such as picnics, etc., please let the executive board know about them.

We want to try to add some fun into the club but we have got to have a team effort to do this and participation from the membership.

I would like to give a special thanks to Mike Boer and Ron Gillispie for all the help they have given me on the computer. Thanks Guys.

We recently purchased some new caps which are red and blue, black and white. See me at the meeting Sunday for caps, shirts, license plates, cookbooks, placards, etc.

Please try to attend the meeting Sunday. You might win the twenty-five dollars door prize!!

Thanks,
Financial Secretary
Denny K. Richardson

Welcome our new members. Be sure to upgrade your directory!

#98	C.V. Jolly 2806 Barclay Drive Nashville, TN 37206	228-8809
#99	Jay Labarre 4920 Saundersville Road Old Hickory, TN 37138	758-3491
#100	Jerry Formella 185 Archwood Place Madison, TN 37115	612-3290

Make the following corrections to your Club Directory.

#18	David & Donna Koopman 5606 Brandon Park Drive Maryville, TN 37804	423-977-6998
#9	Randle Mickle	792-7267

Ask Tommy....

Hello,

This is a new column and I hope everyone enjoys it. There are many different interest in the club, and I hope to offer ideas for every taste. Everything from stock, modified, show cars, pro-street, race cars, trucks and more. I'm going to try to cover topics that will be informative and thought provoking. This months topic will be Mopar parts, sales and availability. A few months ago, I was going through some old magazines and I found an old Direct-Connection Catalog from 1986. This was the period when Chrysler was still in bad shape. The 1986 catalog was very thin with 160 pages total. The big block and Hemi chapters were combined with only 16 pages together between them. The Mopar Performance catalog of 1996 has 320 pages, double the amount in 10 years. The '96 edition has 22 pages for the Hemi along, which is to say that Chrysler sales a ton of parts these days and more importantly there is a demand for replacement, performance and restoration parts. Interests have never been higher for Mopar vehicles and I'm glad to see it. We've been neglected for a long time. The news media is beginning to come around and show old Mopars on their programs more often, but sadly the other brands get much more exposure.

Chrysler reported it will have about 3 billion dollars of parts sales and I must say that is a lot of money. I have bought many parts from Mopar myself and although they are not cheap, I believe they are of the highest quality and if the machine work is beautiful. Whether you use Mopar or after-market components, the odds are whatever you are looking for, someone somewhere makes it. Aftermarket sales must be at an all time high also, because every performance catalog has more Mopar listings than ever before.

We will never out sell G.M., but we have regained lost ground from G.M. and Ford. When you consider that chrysler is the smallest of the big three, (I'm sorry, but it is true), there are more Mopars on the road now than ever before. Just take a drive down the Interstate and you will see more Mopar trucks and cars than in history. A friend of mine summed it up best who said "there are people driving Dodge trucks now, that a few years ago, you could not have given the one". That proves my point, superior design, style and performance will rise to the top every time. There are many people that have never owned a Mopar before and if we can get them to buy one perhaps their friends will follow and some day in the future their children and so on. For any business to survive it must make a profit. If the profits are there, they can offer more high-tech parts and newer stylish designs of cars and trucks. I hope you have enjoyed reading this and maybe it made you feel proud to own a part of history and the future. Buy MOPARS!!!!

Thanks,

Tommy Bane

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 23RD, MCMC Monthly Meeting,
Andretti's Car-B-Cue, Eat at 12:30, Meet at 2.

APRIL 19TH, Chrysler Crazies Car Show, Eastgate Mall in Chattanooga, TN. for more info contact Wayne Hall at next meeting for registration forms.

APRIL 26TH, American Red Cross, Sumner Co. Chapter, 5th Annual Open Car & Truck Show, behind Holiday Inn in Hendersonville.

Winning Ways

Winners at Hunters Custom Auto Expo were:
Scott Young, Terry Carter, Allen Balk, Jay Jernigan, John Dodson, and Dale McDaniel.

Congratulations!!!

FOR SALE

.040 over 383, balanced with cam, strong street motor, brand new. \$575 for short block, call Rev. at 423 977-6998.

FOR SALE

1980 Dodge short bed pickup body, no engine or transmission, \$500. call Kim at 441-2953.

WANTED

392 Hemi, call C.V. Jolly at 228-8809

FOR SALE

'85 Plymouth, old trooper car, 318 4 barrel, cold air, tilt wheel, all wheels with hub cap, 2 brand new on front, car has been painted black. runs real good. \$1000. call Eddie at 746-9510

ASSUME LOAN

'94 Dodge Shadow ES, 4 door, 2.5 engine, 63K miles, new tires, am-fm cassette, auto, electric door locks and mirrors, R.R defrost, non-smokers, runs real good. \$7800 neg. call Mary or Eddie at 746-9510.

Quiz

1. Did Chrysler Corporation ever make a retractable convertible?
2. What year was the Chrysler Airflow introduced?
3. How many years was the Airflow in production?
4. In what year was the 331 cu.in. Fire Power Hemi introduced?
5. In what year was the 392 Hemi introduced?
6. In what year was the first year for the Plymouth Road Runner?

Did You Know?? Nick Willmore is the original owner of his 1970 Plymouth Road Runner.

That the Dodge Bros. once worked for the Ford Motor Company.

There were only 1,920 Road Runner Superbirds built.

Why I Like Mopars

First of all, I learned to drive in a MOPAR. My daddy owned a 4-door, 1954 Plymouth, not a very handy some car, but it was special to me. I remember trying to get every mile per hour I could out of that old Flat Head Six. It would do 30 in first gear, 55 in second gear and if the wind was in my favor, 85 in third gear. I had a lot of fun in that old car. My daddy liked Plymouth's and Dodges too. My mother has a picture he took of his first Plymouth. I don't know the year for sure, but I would guess a '37 or '38.

On May 6, 1962, another MOPAR played a huge part in my life. On that day I was severely injured in a head-on crash. Keep in mind that in 1962, there were no life flight helicopter's, just ambulances. Because of the severity of my injuries, I had to be transported immediately. I can still remember very clearly seeing a friend of mine, Richard Woodard, sitting there in a blue 1961 Plymouth with a door opened for me to be put inside. I had a very close call, but with the help of the Man upstairs, Richard and that *fast* MOPAR, I made it.

Moving on into the 60's, I went on a honeymoon in my sisters 1966 Dodge Coronet 500 which my nephew, Denny, says was his first *fast* car to drive. Then in 1968. I bought the first ROAD RUNNER that was sold in Smith County. It was red, the motor was a 383 cu. 335 hp and extremely fast.

In 1988, I watched a movie called "*Christine*" about a 1958 Plymouth that was haunted. After seeing that movie, I set out to find me a 1958 Plymouth. In 1991, I found her; a one owner, from Birmingham, Alabama with power steering and air conditioning. Four years later and alot of bucks, the car was ready. It started out being solid black and I had her transformed into a look alike "*Christine*", with a red body and a white top. Between the front fenders was crammed a 413 with two 600 Holly's. My car unfortunately won't fix itself like the car in the movie, but I'll bet she's a heck of alot faster.

Another very good reason *I Like MOPARS* since I joined *MCMC*, Linda and I have met alot of real nice people, seen some beautiful vehicles, and have made some wonderful friends.

I'm sure that each club member has their own special reasons why they like MOPARS. If you would like to share your story with us, please get in touch with one of your board members.

Garry Wilkerson