

Mid-South

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Newsletter of the Mid-South Mopars

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MOPARS

Memphis, Tennessee

Dedicated to Promoting, Preserving, and Racing the Chrysler Name

The Prez Sez

By Rick Sorak

Hello Fellow Mopar lovers,

Well, I have some good news I forgot to pass on at the meeting. Kenny O'Neil got in touch with me and said he wanted to take over the editor's job. So with this month, the newsletter you're reading was put together mostly by Ken....Thanks Ken!

Now I have a short rant. About the monthly events, I really find it kind of unbelievable that the only response to my question about a June event, was that it was too hot! Where have you people been living? This is Memphis and yes it's hot. Gas is also almost \$4 a gallon. I do not consider either of these to be a legitimate excuse for not wanting to get out in your cool old car. We can also have evening events, I know driving with the top down is even better at night.

Speaking of monthly events We are going to have one in July. Assuming the Church parking lot is still there (meaning the bulldozers haven't moved in), I'm having a show & shine & tuneup & small repair session Sat July 12th(rain date the 13th) starting at 1 p.m., in the empty church parking across the street from my house, 438 S Highland. I'm willing to do any small repairs, adjustments, etc for free. Assuming you or I have the parts to do so.

Remember This Sat June 28th is the other Mopar club's show...Up in Millington. I plan to go, in the afternoon, and not enter and do as much fence mending as I can. I encourage others to at least do the same.

Don Thomas our illustrious VP was not at the last meeting because he was out of town. Lately he's driven his '64 Dart to New Mexico and N. Carolina....

See ya at Perkins, July 1st .
Rick



**Your 2007-2008 Club
Officers Are:**

President

Rick Sorak
901-399-0245

Vice-President

Don Thomas
901-278-3198

Treasurer

Mike McKenna
901-854-8156

Club Asset Manager

Fritz Crombie
901-754-8066

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901-383-3851

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901-385-0643

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About Your Newsletter

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Treasurer's Report as of 6/3/08

Beginning balance:	\$ 3310.03
Deposits:	\$ 15.00 (Dues)
<u>Disbursements:</u>	<u>\$ 49.57 (Postage)</u>
End Balance:	\$ 3275.46

Sponsorship Money In Escrow: \$25.00

Last Months Meeting Attendance:

Members Present: 23

Guests: 4

Car Shows

July 11-13 Mopar Carlisle 2008,
www.carsatcarlisle.com/chrysler/details.asp

- Goodguys Nashville Meet- June 27-29, 2008
- Mopar Madness car show, Millington, TN. 38111 for website, goto other clubs link, look up June 28, 2008
- "Fun in the Sun" All Mopar car show, Chilhowee Park Fairgrounds, Knoxville, TN., Contact East TN Mopars 865-691-6002 July 19, 2008
- Mopar Nationals- August 8-10, 2008
- Bartlett Christmas Parade- December 6, 2008

Monthly Club Events:

Club Meeting: July 1st at Perkins Rest. @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd @ 6:30P.M.

July Event: Show, Shine & Minor repairs, 438 S Highland, July 12th 1 pm. (13th if rains on 12th)

MAY MEETING MINUTES

May 6th, 2008

May's meeting was held at Perkins' Restaurant on Germantown Parkway at Wolf River Parkway. Food was good. Service was great and meeting ran real smooth. We had 20 members and one guest, Mark Stephens. Mark has a 73 Cuda".

Rick started the meeting talking about the pump gas drags at Motor Sports Park. Rick talked about the Mud Island Car Show this weekend. There was talk about a trip to Paragould AR. to an old drag strip. Rick said he was able to get Wix filters at a great price and was willing to pass on the savings to any member.

Don Thomas told about car problems he had on a recent trip. Don's hood latch failed and his hood came flying up. Don talked about the importance to check and oil your hood latch. Don learned the hard way.

Bobby Buffaloe talked about Mopar cars used for Indy 500 Pace Cars. Bobby told a history on each car. Bobby did a great job and everyone learned something.

We sold 50/50 tickets and Fritz Crombie won. With no other business we adjourned.

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

June 3rd, 2008

Was it the great weather or the love of Mopars that brought out everyone to the June meeting? We had 23 members and 4 visitors, Charlie Campbell, Michael Reveille, Dave Shepard and Randy Shepard were our visitors. Dave and his wife Randy decided to join.

Michael Reveille told us about a business he is in called Race On, at the Memphis Motorsports Park. This is a place where you can go drive a race car. He invited each of us to come out and enjoy.

Rick said a few members wanted to move the meeting closer to midtown but most members wanted to stay at Perkins. If you want to stay or change the meeting you need to come to the next meeting.

We also talked about upcoming car shows, trips and cars for sale. With no other business meeting was adjourned.

TRIVIA

The member to correctly answer the trivia question each month will be the eternal envy of their fellow members. Who can identify the movie that this scene is from? Hint: it is not the only Mopar to meet a gruesome end in the film.



CLUB Merchandise SPECIALS

2006 20th Aniv shirts- s, m, l, xl- \$5

Hats, 3 styles- \$5

license plates, blue- \$5

Key fobs & Pencils- 5 for \$1

BOLT-ON-ING, Or What used to be Hot Rodding...

by John Niolon

I was flipping channels one weekend while eating lunch looking for something car or tool or speed related definitely nothing with a round ball, either small white or large brown. The Cheerleading finals on ESPN slowed me up for a minute or two, but I continued my search until I finally stopped at a "hot rod" show on TNN. I won't mention the name but it's one of several where two guys host a 30 minute show on horsepower or trucks or backyard garages or whatever.

I've watched "at" these shows for a few months and it finally got to be more than I could bear. I once thought the concept behind these shows was a how-to approach to our hobby, much like we in the real world have to do things find something that fits and make it work. Like putting a Ford 9" rear end under a '37 Chevy truck or a '86 Chrysler front clip under a '56 Ford Pickup. Norm Abrams does this on his woodworking show. He actually make things and adapt things to his purpose. He build things to suit his needs.

After watching their teleprompter led ad-libs and jokes I started thinking about the media and our hobby. One duo actually showed out-takes from their show where they had to film screwing a nut on a bolt 6 different times until they had it perfect and it seemed effortless. Someone please tell me what in this hobby is effortless and what would it be worth when you completed it.. We drop things and cut things wrong and break stuff. Of course I'm sure things are easier when you have a shop that would embarrass a NASCAR team shop , complete of course with chassis dyno and excited cascading electron microscope doo-hickey (in case you need to inspect your piston rings on a molecular level) . And, clean my shop is always that clean with nary a smudge on my checkered flag floor tile, yea right. I can drop things on my garage floor sometimes and they are immediately swallowed up by the dirt and clutter. Which brings up a theory that is very hard to verify but believed to be true it states.

There is a phenomenon that is a part of the automobile hobby. It's discussed in quiet voices in secret meetings behind heavy oaken doors, and is reported to be very similar to the worm hole in space. This field of negative energy attracts and holds all automotive nuts, bolts, washers, clips, springs and non replaceable hardwares that fly, fall and slip from our grip. It's an ever expanding area in the void of that other dimension upstairs and one room over from the Bermuda triangle. It is theorized that these lost parts are converted by some secret practice of alchemy into those unrecognizable modules, boxes and thing-a-ma-jigs that populate the engine compartment of modern vehicles. But anyway. Those with those pristine shop floors don't believe this theory and laugh hardily at those of us who do. But we know !

But back to the Hot Rod shows. I think the shows are much more about merchandising than our love of automobiles and other speed related equipment. They have turned into 30 minute commercials touting all the bolt-on "stuff" they can screw onto a car or truck or boat in between commercials for other screw on stuff. Think about these same guys (with different advertisers logos on their shirts) talking about new attachments for your home appliances. (it slices it dices) Change the shop to a kitchen setting of course. Or plug in a lake setting and these guys are in khaki shirts with epaulets and gargoye glasses and a ball cap with a gold hook on the bill talking about rubber worms and add on sonar.

I have yet to see any of the "horsepower" boys or the "shade tree" guys fabricate or modify a damn thing. I did see them splice a piece of wire once.... after talking for 15 minutes about all the features of the new wire stripper and the hoorah wire splices... "and they're available at Pep Boys, Autozone and other fine automotive parts suppliers".

There has been no burning, grinding, hammering, welding, plasma cutting, bending, gluing or screwing around with anything that wasn't CNC cut and computer designed to "fit the application"... there ain't no HOT ROD shows on the T.V. there are fast car shows, slick car shows, new car shows and car evaluation shows,,, but I'm sorry son, there ain't a home built hot rod in the bunch.... as Tim Wilson (my favorite redneck comedian) so eloquently says it..... "it's a sorry world "!

What I'd like to see (in my perfect world) is a show with a guy, or guys, that teach you how to plumb brake systems, how to bend and flare tubing. Or, install a home made transmission mount fabricated to "fit the application". It wouldn't be out of the question to shorten a Ford rear end and fabricate some ladder bars to hang it from over a series of shows. How about installing new floor boards in your classic Mustang including cutting and bead rolling the floor panels ??? Now that would be of interest to a much larger audience than bolting on a new tonneau cover on your 2000 Chevy step side. Don't you think ???

I think there are a lot of hobbyist who would support a show like that and buy the how-to videos that show the details. The current guys sell videos of their shows but who (except the guy who owned the 2000 Chevy step side with the new tonneau cover) wants to buy a video tape of a "30 minute commercial")

Maybe it's not do-able. In their defense I guess the blow-through from the plasma cutter removing the floor boards would reek havoc on their checkered flag flooring. And that grit and grime from a 4 inch grinder just plays the devil with a perfectly waxed and curled handlebar mustache, I'm sure. I understand that you have to have sponsorship for air time. But do the shows have to center on only the bolt-on or add-in products that the sponsors sell ? It's true that we

depend on the after market manufacturers for a large portion of our engines and dress up parts and such. I buy them and so do you and they dress up our rides nicely. I also think that the alleged "hot rod" shows are doing us a disservice by not standing by and supporting the basic premise of hot rodding build what you can and drive what you built.

Maybe a write in campaign would convince the executives of these ventures that a 'build it' format would attract a large viewer base for them an audience that is ready and willing to spend money but also has limited funds. Building the pieces of our cars and trucks is not only enjoyable but a necessary part of affording our hobby. I wonder if Eastwood would consider sponsoring a series of shows on metal polishing and buffing if they knew they could sell a boat load of buffing wheels and supplies.

Maybe I'm mistaken, maybe most would just buy that slick polished intake from Edlebrock and bolt it on. What do you think ? I don't know ??? Maybe there is something interesting on the Discovery Channel to watch.

(Editor's comment: I think this man overstates his case a bit, I've personally seen many of the exact things he's mentioned as NOT being done on these shows, being done on these shows. Yes building a car is bunch of hard work and they do make it look too easy. I also understand that for shows to happen at all they must get free parts, and this means they must advertise them. Rick)

SOUND OFF

Rick,

I fully agree with the spirit of your Prez Sez article in the June newsletter. I am a charter member of this car club, joining the same night that the name was voted on. In recent years I have bounced in and out twice for some of the same reasons you hit on.

At the beginning of the year, you asked for ideas for club events. I provided a list of 11 events that the club had in many years past successfully put on. You put the list up on the club's net ring website for public view. We are now well into June, and to date none of the events have been set up. Well, one was, but not by Mid South Mopars. You can imagine my surprise when I surfed to another local Mopar club website and saw that in April they planned a cruise to Reelfoot Lake, number 2 on my list! A couple of months ago I remember reading that there will be at least one event per month from March to November. Except for going to wash a car, I can't say that I have seen any other events.

But in my eyes, the biggest problem is the general lack of club pride and enthusiasm today. We have had for many years a board of directors that, with a few rare exceptions, hasn't seemed to be very motivated in their obligation as officers. We have a membership that has grown completely lethargic, having no problem finding time to go sit in a restaurant for a couple of hours on a weeknight, but generally can't be bothered to go out on a nice cruise or picnic. A membership that, instead of looking for reasons to get out and do something as a club, seems to look for reasons not to- gas prices, it's too hot, I don't want to risk my rare, 1 of ten million 318 Duster. With a very few exceptions, there just doesn't seem to exist the level of excitement or pride in the club there used to be. I miss the days of regular Friday night cruises (we OWNED the Hardees at Summer and Stratford), the poker runs and scavenger hunts, the picnics. I miss the days when Mid South Mopars used to shame the other car clubs in town by showing en masse at local car shows. You know why most of the local shows even have Mopar classes? This club. We were once so bold that back around 1990 we even tried to get the Mopar Nationals to relocate to Memphis!

I have recently begun considering that our club may be suffering from hardening of the arteries. I have a little story to illustrate. A few years ago when I decided to sell my '68 Charger, I went to the Auto Trader office to start an ad. While I was there a guy my age came in; he had seen my car and pulled in to talk. We were gabbing and I told him I wanted to find a Mopar street rod. He told me there was a guy or two in his club with Mopar rods, one he thought was for sale. He told me the club he was in and I told him I had thought about going to a meeting of theirs and maybe joining. He discouraged me from doing it, said if I went to one I'd probably not come back. When I asked why, he said that their club is "just a bunch of grouchy opinionated old fuds who just get together every month to whine and complain about everything."

Kind of reminds me of the last few MSM meetings I attended.

We used to have a lot of younger members. Where are they now? Is the noteworthy lack of car events running them off? Is it the aforementioned "opinionated old fuds" that this club has of its own? It hurts me to see a club that I care about so much, that was once so active and vital, just wither away on the vine. Let's show some pride and show everybody that Mid South Mopars is still as relevant today as it was twenty years ago.

Kenny O'Neil,

member since 1986

MEMBER MILESTONES

Kenny O'Neil is finally getting his '36 Dodge coupe back, look for him to no longer be Flintstoning down the road.



P. O. Box 1690
Collierville, TN 38027

Get REAL Get MOPAR

Mid-South Mopars Swap Meet

Looking to buy or sell cars or parts? List your for sale or wanted cars and parts on the sheet circulated at the monthly club meeting, mail in your request, or e-mail your request to 528hemi@gmail.com

For Sale

65 Coronet 500 parts (misc.) Stan Walker
901-292-6656

Big Block Push-button tranny \$500/obo; Big block parts
you need it, I prob got it... Rick Sorak 399-0245

1977 LWB Dodge truck parts, Body and chassis parts,
1985 – 1979 NOS truck parts.

2 '69 Cuda Frt. Fenders \$100 ea.

'69 SB 4-sp trans, clutch & hump \$800

Rick Campbell Home 622-429-1944 Cell 901-491-1943

Wanted

Pair Bucket seats from Dodge Caravan, folding armrests,
grey cloth, bases included \$60
Kenny O'Neil 383-3851

Used 5.9 Magnum engine wanted Rick 399-0245

64 fury 426 street wedge block, please email or call
thanks, Jerry, 865-382-8216 jerfo8@bellsouth.net

73/4 B-body front windshield-no tint-must be mint-
George Mueller 832-3917

1991 Dodge service manual
Keith Holley 901-490-3549

1972 A-body AM/FM Radio
I collect patches and I am looking for Mopar Patches.
Jerry Morris 901-385-0643