



Mopar Muscle Cars of Austin

Random Thoughts & Club Happenings

No, the post office didn't lose your April newsletter. I never got a chance to produce one, and I apologize. I've called this month's newsletter the "April/May" issue, but its really a May issue since April is over!

A quick report on our March event is in order at this point. 6 cars from our club met at Callahan's General Store on Saturday morning to drive down to Bastrop for the joint cruise and picnic with the Houston and San Antonio Mopar Clubs. The weather was perfect, and the picnic was yet another great success. It didn't look like it would be that way from the start, though. When we arrived at the Bastrop park, we found that a substantial amount of parking had been eliminated from last year, and the remaining parking lot was already overflowing with cars from Houston and San Antonio. As I was standing there scratching my head wondering where we could put the rest of the cars, a Bastrop police officer happened to drive by. I asked him if we could park in the old spaces (now labelled with "NO PARKING" signs) since we had such a large group. He politely refused, but did suggest that we could use the soccer field across the street. He got on the radio to find someone with a key to the gate. The "key" arrived in about 10 minutes.... in the form of a Bastrop city service truck equipped with bolt cutters. After cutting the chain, the officer directed us as all 24+ cars filed onto the soccer field and lined up in ideal "car show" formation as the following pictures show.

- Steve Lacker



Feature Article

The Hemi is Back!

By Steve Lacker

Now that I've got your attention, here's the scoop. The replacement engine for the tried-and-true Magnum 5.9 (better known to us gearheads as the 360) is currently reported to be a hemi-headed, single cam in block pushrod v8. Just what the Muscle Car Doctor ordered! Here's what AI Online Magazine had to say about the powerplant:

DaimlerChrysler's iconic V-8 is reborn to power trucks and cars in high volume.

Once it was thought to be extinct, slayed forever by the twin forces of fuel economy and exhaust emissions. When it roamed the streets of the Earth, it shook the pavement like no other, leaving great stripes of smoking rubber, quivering competitors and shattered records in its wake.

It was Chrysler's Hemi, the king of all American muscle car V-8s. The mere sight of its voluptuous valve covers, each sprouting four central spark plug wires, had nearly the same effect on male car enthusiasts as Linda Vaughn in her Hurst T-shirt. The ability to produce mountains of power made the Hemi an icon. And DaimlerChrysler intends to bring it back.

Sources at the automaker and its suppliers confirm that the company will produce an all-new 5.7L (353 cu. in.) ohv Hemi V-8, beginning in late 2001. It will replace the old 5.9L V-8 used in Dodge trucks and the Jeep Grand Cherokee. The reborn Hemi will wear aluminum cylinder heads to reduce mass. It will have two spark plugs per cylinder, to increase flame propagation, speed combustion and reduce emissions. And to boost fuel economy, the engine will feature a cylinder deactivation system for steady-state driving.

Even with its cast-iron cylinder block, the new 5.7L will weigh less and be more compact than the 5.9L. And with just one camshaft (in the cylinder block) and two valves per cylinder, it will handily beat the multivalve Ford and Toyota truck V-8s on unit cost. In fact,

DaimlerChrysler insiders say the pushrod Hemi cost less to develop and produce than the company's own 4.7L sohc V-8, introduced last year.

The news gets even better. The new engine, prototypes of which are spinning up the dynos in Auburn Hills right now, will be capable of hitting or exceeding 1 HP per cubic inch net HP... putting it squarely in competition with GM's aluminum mouse motor, and making it a real muscle car contender if its installed in the Charger R/T and Chrysler 300N. The engine is supposedly approved for these cars, which will be built in about 2004 under the "LX-LJ" large sedan program. Best news yet: they're rear drive. Its been a long time coming, but it looks like it will finally happen: a worthy successor to the cars we grew up with and still admire.

The new hemi may be nearly 100 cubic inches smaller, will certainly be far more complicated than its big-block ancestor, and won't come cheap. But then government regulations have forever eliminated simple, big, powerful engines in inexpensive cars. To meet emissions requirements, air-assisted fuel injection is being developed for this motor and for the 4.7L OHC v8 already in production. More complication, more things to go wrong... but on the other hand these cars may well see 30 or more miles per gallon. I'm especially proud of the fact that Chrysler hasn't adopted a trendy "newer is better, high-revving rubber-band motor" approach but has instead looked to some old technology to solve a modern problem. No matter how complicated the modern Hemi may be, it won't be anything like as ridiculous as a Honda VTEC engine or a 32 valve Toyota. Sometimes old-tech is just plain BETTER tech!.

Local Activities

The Blanco show, usually attended by at least a few MMCA members, will take place Saturday May 20, at Blanco State Park.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 26-30 Fort Worth (Texas Motor Speedway) Pate Swap Meet

May 13 (NOTE DATE CHANGE!) Austin Texas Kars for Kids at the Sonic Drive-In at 134 E. Riverside.

May 20 Blanco, TX 12th Annual Blanco Classic Car Show Blanco State Park (on the Blanco River). Registration 9AM-noon, Parade 11:00, Showing: display: 12 PM-4 PM. Judging in 24 classes, including "Mopar" and "Muscle Car."

May 26-28 Waco, TX 25th Annual Waco Mini-Nationals. Cameron Park East. Waco, TX Open car and truck show. T-shirts, dash plaques, awards. Info: 713-932-8806

June 3 - 4th Boerne, TX The 12th Annual National Dodge Charger Meet, Boerne, TX for 1966 to 1978 Dodge Chargers. The Charger meet is free: no entry fee! Contact Wes at 830-981-5383 for more information and to let him know you are attending

June 10 The Twins Farm Party. Further details to come, or contact Dave or Dean Haight for full information.

Wanted

Want to buy junk Mopars in Austin area
call Wendell at 512 470 8484

03/00

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(2) 15x8 inch Mopar Cop Car rims  
Rallye hood or Fiberglass 6-pack (T/A) hood for Challenger  
Sure-grip 3.23 or 3.55 for 8-3/4

**Call Mike Cox (512) 303-3100**

5/99

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Wanted: "Tuff" steering wheel
Call Steven Dykes (512) 218-4752

7/99

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## WANTED

1967 PLYMOUTH BODY SERVICE MANUAL  
RADIATOR #2785934

**TERRY 'E BODY' SIEGMUND (512)451-1454 11/99**

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B-body big yoke 3.23 SG rear end for a 73 Satellite, Rallye hood or 6-pack hood for a 73 Challenger, Console mount for cassette player. Call **Mike Cox, (512) 303-3100**

12/98

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Taillight Assemblies for 1968 Barracuda. Call **Mike Mosley, (512) 832-5270 12/98**

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# For Sale

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**Mopar Muscle Cars of Austin 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary License Plate Frames.** These are metal frames with black-on-white lettering. Frames are now officially real cheap!. Contact **Harry Amon (512) 345-5832** and he might just give you a pair (or charge \$5 each, \$8 for a pair).

12/98

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FOR SALE

1964 361 ENGINE, COMPLETE, NEEDS REBUILD

1968 318 ENGINE, COMPLETE, NEEDS REBUILD

1973 318 SHORTBLOCK, NEEDS REBUILD

M/T ALUMINUM 426 HEMI VALVE COVERS

2 NOS 1968 DART HEADLIGHT BEZELS

Call Terry Siegmund (512)451-1454 (3/00)

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## **Unique Plymouth for sale by original owner:**

Triple-black 1968 Plymouth Fury VIP 2-door, special-ordered with:

**440 Super Commando engine**

**4-Speed manual transmission**

**Factory A/C**

**Factory installed "Auto Pilot" cruise control**

Sure-Grip rear axle

Power disk brakes

6-way power driver's seat with headrest

4-way passenger's seat

power windows

tilt/telescoping steering wheel

Factory AM/FM

Unusual factory option combination was arranged with Chrysler factory representatives by Austin Chrysler/Plymouth dealer Jay Smith in 1968 for the original buyer, who is now selling the car. Car was garaged most of its life and has original paint, original vinyl top, and original

vinyl/cloth interior- all in good condition (never wrecked, no tears in vinyl or fabric).  
Approximately 70,000 original miles. All trim intact. Car runs and drives, needs new fuel tank  
(running with a temporary auxiliary tank). **Serious buyers please call Jack at (512)  
452-7165 to arrange to view car.** (1/00)

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For Sale:

Upper Control arms, spindles, caliper adapters from '75 A-body
direct replacement for 73-76 A-body - upgrade to larger ball joint and
disk brake for 67-72 A-body. Includes new (less than 3000 miles) 10.5"
rotors, studs, brake pads, bearings and seals. Also includes
professionally rebuilt calipers w/ new seals and steel pistons. Asking
\$250 for all. **Call Mike Mosley at 671-6490 evenings or leave message.**

2/00

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Cragar SS mags (2) 15x7, (2) 15x10- good shape, \$175  
340 cast iron intake, \$100  
X-heads, \$250/pair  
LA purple cam .284 (NIB) \$100  
LA single plane intake, \$100  
LA six-pack intake, \$200  
A-833 4-speed w/ pistol-grip E-body, \$500  
4-speed console, \$100  
Rallye guage w/ wiring, E-body, \$100  
(2) 72-74 Challenger taillight assy., \$75 / pr  
(3) Challenger doors w/ glass, \$100 each  
(2) Standard guage sets, E-body, \$50 each  
MAKE AN OFFER, Wife says all must go!  
73 Satellite Sebring 2-door hardtop, 318, auto, right rear quarter damage (have goold rear half),  
\$1500 OBO

**Call Mike Cox (512) 303-3100**

5/99

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-1970 383 HP engine- \$300
-18-spline 4-speed trans- \$400
-23-spline 4-speed (close ratio), apart- \$200

-Aluminum bellhousing- \$150
-Big block heads, 2 each 906, 915, 452, 346 castings
-Exhaust Manifolds for 70 E-body 383
-MP parts, never used, call for prices (want to recover investment- less than what MP charges now!): 509 cam, adjustable pushrods for 440, roller timing chain, MP distributor for 440, 933 valve springs.
-New Hayes street/strip clutch and pressure plate (BB/4-speed/coarse spline)
-New Year One 6-pack air cleaner base
Call **Isaac Jackson (512) 282-6261**

7/99

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**1972 Plymouth Satellite.** 360 CID 2-bbl, auto, complete, great interior, excellent chrome, road wheels, dual exhaust **Enrique Guerra, 512-388-7942**

12/98

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Parting out 400 mopars, 1953 to 1976, southeast of Austin. Open Saturday 10 AM-5 PM
Web: <http://www.drmpar.com>

03/00
