

Mopar Connection

Newsletter of the Black Hills Mopars

ISSUE 52

Spring 2004

Mopars R' US

I would like to Thank the officers from last year. They have done a wonderful job in bringing the concept of Mopars into peoples minds. Whether you are a person who just likes to drive a Mopar, likes to restore a Mopar, likes to Drag race a Mopar, likes to race at Black Hills Speedway in a Mopar, likes to show a Mopar, or plain just likes Mopars, we have tried to please everyone. If, at any time, any member of the Black Hills Mopars has been offended, we apologize and hope that you will give us another chance. We have strived to make the Black Hills Mopars Club a car club to be proud of with the promotion of Mopars. Please feel free to contact any of the officers and express your thoughts so that we, as a club, may help to promote Mopars in our area.

Out with the Old... in with the New!

As most of you know the elections of officers was held at the Annual Club Christmas Party. The new officers elected are: President- Jerry Moore, Vice-President- Tony Heick, Treasurer- Scot Rathert, Secretary- Martha Watkins, Board of Directors- Jason Lind, Kevin Losing, Cory Voyles, and Gregg Jankord. We welcome the new officers to the helm of the Black Hills Mopars!

Do the Dues

Also at the Party, the majority voted to increase the dues of membership to \$15 for a Single Membership and \$20 for a Family Membership. Most of the money is spent on the members by printing and receiving a newsletter, hosting the Club Picnic the night before the Mopars in the Hills Car Show, the promotion of the Mopars of the Hills Car Show, and the Annual Christmas Party. If you have not paid your dues, please send it to Scot Rathert, 4601 Horsecreek, Rapid City, SD 57702. If you know of anyone who would like to join the Black Hills Mopar Club bring them to a meeting, which is held the 3rd Saturday night at 7:00pm at Flags and Wheels.

Counts Car Show 2004

The Counts Car Show was an awesome show, not just by the stand point that we, as a Club, took First Place in the Outstanding Club Display Award, beating out the Mustang Club, the Downcasts, the Corvette Club, and the Sports Car Club, but by all the cool cars that showed that the hobby of cars is not a dying

breed. To see so many young people bringing their cars and trucks to show their passion, whatever brand it is, was a sight to behold. So no matter what they drive, even if its not a Mighty Mopar, the hobby will be around for a little while longer. Make sure you let them know that we are behind them with inspiration and perspiration.

The winners from our club were:

Early Mopar... 1st Place-Tony and Dawn Heick, 1970 Dodge Coronet 500 Convert., 2nd Place: Jim and Kathy Roling, 1969 Dodge Coronet

Late Mopar... 1st Place-Jen Watkins, 1971 Plymouth Duster, 2nd Place-Jim and Wendy Ganzer, 1970 Dodge Charger, 3rd Place-Jerry Knispel, 75 Dodge Dart

Competition Mopar... 1st Place-Bob and Martha Watkins, 1972 Plymouth Duster

Unfinished Mopar... 1st Place-Bob MacLachlan, 1970 Plymouth Superbird, 2nd Place-Don Baggs, 1974 Dodge Charger

Best Mopar... Tony and Dawn Heick, 1970 Dodge Coronet 500 Convert

Outstanding Mopar.. Tony and Dawn Heick, 1970 Dodge Coronet 500 Convert.

Congratulations to all who won plaques and trophies and a big Thank You to all who helped build and tear down the display. Also a **BIG THANK YOU** to the **Westside NAPA Auto Parts Store** for their help with providing the Garage equipment to make our Garage scene authentic.

Member Spotlight **By: Kevin Losing**

We are again going to try to have a section in the newsletter that will feature a club member. This month Kevin Losing has volunteered to write this month's feature.

My name is Kevin Losing and I've been a Mopar club member for about a year and a half now and have met a lot of neat people. I am now on the Board of Directors with three other people and we will be in charge of the newsletter and we are going to be adding and trying new things. If you have any suggestions or comments, please get a hold of one of us.

I have a 69 RT/SE Charger I bought over 18 years ago. It still isn't done yet, but I keep doing a little more every time and hopefully some year before I die it will be completed. It was originally a F8 dark green metallic car but I'm not a green person and someday I have plans to paint it FY1 yellow and put the black R/T stripe around the rear with a black vinyl top. It has a 440 that has been spiced up a little bit with an automatic and 3.91 gears which it will turn the tires easily, that's what I built it for!

The drive train and mechanicals are all done and pretty much what I have left to do is the body and some parts of the interior. The last thing I have done to it was to put on front disc brakes which was a major improvement in being able to

stop! Right now I just about have my console and floor shifter completed, so hopefully this summer I can take it to some of our cruises and enjoy it with many of you folks, because **Our cars were built to Enjoy!!**

May Day Run

The Annual May Day Run will be held on Sunday, May 2nd. It was agreed upon to start the run at the Westside NAPA Auto Parts at 10:00 am and then cruise to Sturgis to the Sturgis Dragway for a Show and Shine to start at 11:00 and then to do some Heads Up Racing starting after the time trials and before the eliminations. (For those of you not familiar with Heads Up Racing, it's the racing you do every time you are at the stop light. The light turns green and you try to blow the doors of your neighbor!) Afterwards , if you want, you can decide to cruise some more or you can stay and watch the elimination rounds. It's up to you!!! Any questions, please call one of the officers.

What's the Number

If you need to get in touch with a club officer, I guess having a number to contact would be of some help. So here are the officers and their contact number:

President:	Jerry Moore	(605) 484-0343
Vice-Pres:	Tony Heick	(605) 892-2241
Treasurer:	Scot Rathert	(605) 342-9243
Secretary:	Martha Watkins	(605) 787-5695
Board of Dir:	Gregg Jankord	(605) 716-6060
	Jason Lind	(605) 359-3419
	Kevin Losing	(605) 484-4516
	Cory Voyles	(605) 723-7007

Two Car Shows in One

Most of you know that the National Winged Warriors and B-Body Clubs will be having their national meet here in Rapid City June 17-20, 2004. With this in mind, the club as decided to combine this meet with our Mopars in the Hills Car Show. This will take the pressure off of organizing two shows back to back. It will be held at the Civic Center on the West side (facing Central High School), with Microtel Motel being the host motel for the meet. We are in need of door prizes, t-shirt designs, and help in promoting and organizing the huge Event. If you can in any way help out, please contact any officer.

What's The World Coming To? By: Bryan Sharp

Your ready to go out to the garage and install that shiny new part on your pride and joy, but then all of a sudden, on the TV, the unmistakable sound of a big block starts rumbling. "Well I guess the new "ACME" widget that just became available can wait until later to go on." Alright, the shows over but then you remember your online auction is ending for that ultra rare valve cover bolt you found in your scrounge bin. "Oh well, I guess there is always tomorrow night!" There are many things out there vying for our auto attention-and they all seem to point to it being a good time to be an automotive enthusiast. The airwaves are full of television shows that cater to us, aftermarket performance and restoration parts only seem to be increasing in availability (of course prices seem to increase too, but this is about the good things!) and everyday the internet seems to grow to be an evermore effective tool for those of us who relish this pastime of cars. You could say it's too much of a good thing, but when have most of us ever thought too much was enough!?

It's almost difficult to turn on the T.V. these days and not come across programming, catering specifically to us, as automotive enthusiasts. It was not long ago, though, that it was few and far between, you either had to get Speedvision on cable or catch the Saturday morning lineup on TNN (now Spike TV). Now there are almost so many automotive and motor sports related shows out there that there is a real risk that one could get distracted from working on there own cars altogether, and it all seems to stem from a rather unlikely source.

The Discovery Channel and its affiliates hit pay dirt with a couple of documentaries on famed chopper builder Jessie James and West Coast Choppers, then he became host of their hit show Monster Garage, where they take everyday vehicles and chop them up into "monsters"; from things like a Baha off-road racing Corvette to a "mail delivery" truck equipped with a catapult and giant package shooting crossbow for speeding up those deliveries and the new Cop Car Donut Factory. Soon after came another runaway success dealing with motorcycles in American Chopper. It follows the day-by-day drama of building custom bikes at Orange County Choppers in New York. Not that this was enough, they also had a competition between several notable custom motorcycle builders in their Biker Build-off series. Now they have added American Hot Rod to the lineup, a show that centers around the creation of Hot Rods in the shop of celebrated Hot-Rod designer Boyd Coddington. It seems like you can find one or all of these shows on Discovery at least two times, sometimes three or four times a week, but they don't have the market cornered by far.

Other channels, including Discovery's sister station The Learning Channel have gotten in on the act. They are running a series called "Rides". Unlike Discovery's hit shows, it does not center on one shop or genera of vehicle. One

show may be focusing on a shop building a customized 32 Ford for the Edlebrock Family, another episode, chronicles the building of a radically customized 56 Chevy pickup, while yet another may find them in a shop that's souping up a modern luxury car. The TLC Channel is also about to begin airing a show called Overhauled in which they "steal" an unsuspecting persons "beater" car or truck, completely overhaul it and later surprise them with it all fixed up. MTV, of all channels, has also gotten in on the act, with a show called "Pimp my ride" (I must note for those of us who may not be of the younger MTV watching crowd the term "Pimp" as used here is a slang term for fix up and customize, much like Cherry'd out or Tricked out would be familiar to some of us.) MTV's show seems to have the same basic idea as the Learning Channel's "Overhauled", except that the owner actually knows where his car has gone.

Needless to say there are the two old stalwarts still at it. Speed TV, formerly Speedvision has a full schedule of auto racing, NASCAR, and motorcycle related programming. It also has a full lineup of automotive shows including the venerable "My Classic Car" as well as "American Musclecar", a show that puts the spotlight on a classic muscle machine. "Two Guys Garage" (formerly "Shadetree Mechanic") can be found here, "Dream Car Garage", and a new show, "Cut, Chop, Rebuild". This new show concentrates on not one, but several cars, as they go through there own unique restoration, hot rodding, or customization, chronicling each step of the way. Needless to say there are many other shows on this motor sports centered channel. The Nashville Network (TNN) has become Spike TV and still has a healthy dose of automotive programming as well. You can find "Horsepower TV" here, centering on performance upgrades primarily of musclecars. "Trucks", featuring the upgrading of pickup trucks and off-road vehicles, as well as "Popular Hot Rodding TV" and "Car and Driver Television".

Its pretty safe to say that on just about any given day of the week there is bound to be something on TV that is of interest to us, and there are some I haven't even hit upon. If that's not enough to slow down your latest project then we'll just have to see what's out there on the information superhighway.....

Coming Soon.... The Internet

Classifieds

For Sale: 727 Deep Transmission Pan, \$25.
Big Block Chrome Valve Covers, New, \$25
2 BF Good rich Radial T/A tires, Excellent tread, 235-70R-15's, \$50
71-74 E-Body Pistol Grip handle, \$200.
Call Bob Watkins @ 787-5695

Events Calendar

April 17th... Black Hills Mopars Meeting, 7:00 pm @ Flags and Wheels

May 1st... Saturday Test and Tune @ Sturgis Dragway

2nd... May Day Run to Opening Day at Sturgis Dragway, 10:00am @
Westside Napa Auto Parts.

2nd... Sunday Opening Race Day @ Sturgis Dragway

15th... Saturday Night Race @ Sturgis Dragway

Black Hills Mopars Meeting, 7:00 pm @ Flags and Wheels

16th... Sunday Race @ Sturgis Dragway

19th... Street Legal Drags (Wednesday Night), Sturgis Dragway

23rd... Mopars at Thunder Mountain Car Show and Races, Denver CO

29th & 30th... Memorial Weekend Drag Races @ Sturgis Dragway

June 5th & 6th... Mopars in the Park Car Show and Swap Meet, Shakopee, MN

12th-13th... All-Car Rally, Belle Fourche, SD

12th... Fastest Car Shootout (more details to follow)

13th... **Change in Date of Black Hills Mopars Meeting, 7:00 pm @**

Flags and Wheels, finalize plans for Show

13th... County Travelers Car Show, Mitchell, SD

16th... Street Legal Drags (Wednesday Night), Sturgis Dragway

19th... **Mopars in the Hills and the Winged Warriors and B-Body**

Owners National Meet and Car Show, Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

19th... 2nd Annual B&B Motorsports Cruiser Night and Car Show, Sturgis, SD

20th... Father's Day Special Race @ Sturgis Dragway

July 2nd-4th... Mopar Magic Weekend 2004, Grand Junction, CO

3rd-4th... 4th of July Weekend Spectacular Drag Races @ Sturgis Dragway

17th... Black Hills Mopars Meeting, 7:00 pm @ Flags and Wheels

21st... Street Legal Drags (Wednesday Night), Sturgis Dragway

24th... Bowman Car Show, Bowman, ND

24th... Custer Cool Pine Cruisers Car Show, Custer, SD

24th... Saturday Night Race and Dance

31st... Test and Tune, Sturgis Dragway

Aug 7th... Pre-Rally Outlaw Car Shootout Saturday Night, Sturgis Dragway

13th-15th... Mopar Nationals, Columbus, OH

18th... Street Legal Drags, (Wednesday Night), Sturgis Dragway

21st... Black Hills Mopars Meeting, 7:00 pm @ Flags and Wheels

21st&22nd... Weekend at the Races, Sturgis Dragway

This is only a portion of the events scheduled, but as of this writing these are the ones we know of. Please let us know if you have information on any other events.