

# MOPAR CONNECTION

*The Newsletter of the Black Hills Mopars*

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**Spring 2009**

## **Christmas/Birthday Party**

By Scott Rudge

Once again, the Christmas/Birthday party was a roaring success. Members converged at the AFL-CIO Labor temple on St. Patrick Street on January 17<sup>th</sup> to take in a little pizza, spin some tales, and exchange some gifts. After consuming a lot of goodies, it was time to get down to business. Martha got the ball rolling with an emotional resignation speech. After 2 years of commanding the helm, she was ready to step down and let another grab the steering wheel. She proceeded to lead the presidential nomination discussion with a slew of high praises and recommendations for one of our newest members. After just a few seconds had slipped by, I could feel the noose tightening. It was such a heartfelt nomination, how could I say no? Like sharks in chum filled waters, I think the rest of the crowd could smell the fresh meat. After what seemed only a few seconds, the next president was elected to office. All kidding aside, thank you for your vote of confidence, and I hope that with the guidance of previous officers that our great club will continue its success in 2009. Joining me in the officer ranks are Ed Metz, voted Vice President, and Bryan Sharp as Treasurer. Once the official business was taken care of, it was time to get busy with the gift exchange. As usual, there was a large compliment of die cast vehicles and car related stuff. But a few members came up with some more interesting gifts. Of note was Mike's microwave popcorn accompanied by a DVD copy of Brokeback Mountain. Also, Patti got Jason off the hook as she relieved him of a very interesting, and large, ceramic cardinal cookie jar.

## **Mopar Trivia**

By Jeremy Farr

1. What were the *first* and *last* years that the Road Runner was produced?
  - a. 1968 and 1980
  - b. 1969 and 1975
  - c. 1968 and 1974
  - d. 1969 and 1988
2. What year was the *last* year that any Chrysler-built automotive engine was equipped with solid/mechanical lifters?
  - a. 1973
  - b. 1982
  - c. 1967
  - d. 1980



# History of the Small Block Mopar Engine Part 1 of 2

By Jeremy Farr

This is the first of a two-part history on the development of the small block LA Mopar engine. The origination of the Mopar “A” engine dates back to the 1956 model year with the introduction of the 277 c.i. V-8. That engine had a bore of 3.75” and a stroke of 3.12” and was only available for 1956. In 1957 the 301 c.i. replaced the 277 c.i. motor in the Plymouth line, it had a larger bore (3.91”), but retained the same stroke as the 277. NOTE: The 1957 301 varies greatly from the Chrysler 301 from 1955. The 318 c.i. engine was also offered in the 1957 model year as an option. It shared the same bore as the 301, but has a longer stroke at 3.31”. The *wide block* or “*poly*” 318, as they are sometimes called lasted until 1966. For 1967, the 318 was redesigned after the 273 c.i. LA (Low-A) engine, this refers to the deck height of the motor. 1964 was the first year for the 273 LA engine. It was engineered to be lighter, more durable, reliable and economical than the original A engine. The 1964 273 only sported a 2 barrel carburetor, that changed in 1965 with the addition of a 4 barrel carb, single plane intake manifold, solid lift cam, better exhaust and flat top pistons, making it the first small block performance package. The 273 lasted until 1968 when it was replaced by the 340. 1967 was the first offering of the 318 LA engine. These went back to a 2-barrel carb and a mild hydraulic cam for reliability. The 318 would stay in that basic configuration for over 20 years.

Enter the 340. 1968’s replacement for the 273 HP was the newly designed 340c.i. motor. Sharing the same crankshaft size and stroke as the 318, but having a larger bore made the 340 very potent. 1968-1971 340 engines share many of the same parts, including bigger port heads, Carter AVS 4 barrel carburetion, dual point ignition, hydraulic camshaft and better flowing exhaust manifolds. These motors quickly became the small block to beat on the street and strip. The 340 sold decent in the late 60’s, but sales really took off in 1970 with the introduction of the 340 Duster. With a low base price, this package was a hot seller. In 1971, the 340 went through the first of many changes. The long-standing AVS carb. was replaced by the bigger Carter Thermoquad. Thermoquads flow more air than an AVS does, but are very difficult to tune. That carburetor stayed on the 340 until its demise in 1973. The 340 was detuned for 1972 and 1973 would be its final production year. The 360 engine was introduced in mid-1971. Only offered in large passenger cars, it went generally unnoticed until 1974 when it was offered as the high performance replacement for the 340. Those 360’s included a 4-barrel carb, restrictive exhaust and a growing amount of emissions parts under the hood. That style 360 would remain a performance option on later B and F-bodied cars in the late 70’s and could be found under the hoods of many Dodge trucks and vans well into the early 90’s, undergoing minor changes from year to year.

*Part 2 will cover the Mopar LA engines’ racing heritage*

## **Mopars at the Roling's**

Mopars on the Green has been replaced with Mopars at the Roling's. All are invited to descend on the Roling's residence for an evening of maniacal mopar mischief. We will meet at 6 pm on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, with a weather back-up day of Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. You can either eat before you arrive, or Jim will have his grill available for anyone who wants to bring their own burgers or hot dogs. Of course, it is BYOB. Thanks to Jim and Kathy for opening up their home for us!

## **Car Show Schedule**

- May 9<sup>th</sup> 5th Annual Western Dakota Tech Car Show-Autocross-Burnout Contest-Swap Meet – Rapid City.
- May 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> Midwest Mopars in the Park - Farmington, MN. - <http://www.midwestmopars.com/>
- May 31<sup>st</sup> Mopar at Thunder Mountain - [http://www.bandimere.com/events/displayevent\\_detail.php?eventID=339](http://www.bandimere.com/events/displayevent_detail.php?eventID=339)
- June 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> Thunder on the Prairie Rod Run/Show - Alliance, NE. - <http://385cruisers.com>
- June 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> Wheel Jam - Huron, SD - <http://www.wheeljam.com>
- June 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> All Car Rally - Belle Fourche, SD.
- June 6<sup>th</sup> 10th Annual Baker Car Show - Baker, MT.
- June 13<sup>th</sup> Nelsen's Old Town Car Show - Ft. Collins, CO. - <http://downtownfortcollins.com/festivals.php/otcar>
- June 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> Black Hills Overdrive - Black Hills, SD - <http://bhoverdrive.com/>
- June 27<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Mopars in the Hills – DodgeTown, Rapid City.
- July 5<sup>th</sup> 4th Annual Mile High Show and Shine - Lead, SD.
- July 25<sup>th</sup> 9th Annual CoolPine Cruisers Car Show - Custer, SD.
- August 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> Mopar Nationals - Columbus, OH.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> Liberty Fall Fling – Liberty Chrysler, Rapid City.

## Trivia Answers

1. (A) The 1980 was a Volare w/ RR package
2. (D) The 225 slant six
3. (C) Spring Special color only
4. (C)
5. (C) A-Valiant, F-Volare, L-Horizon/TC3

## Swap Meet

Bob Watkins discount parts warehouse (787-5695):

- ? 1970 and up big block 10 ½" bell housing w/inspection cover, no cracks or repairs. \$275.
- ? 71-74 B and E body automatic console. \$125.
- ? 72-74 Challenger grille w/emblem, slight warpage at top of grille. \$25.
- ? 1970 and up B or E body 4-speed tranny, 23 spline with big front bearing and big block bearing retainer. \$275.
- ? Pair of 1968 Roadrunner taillights, complete. \$40.
- ? 1969 Superbee taillights, complete. \$65.
- ? 1970-1972 Dart hood, nice. \$125.
- ? 1970-1972 Dart deck lid. \$75.
- ? 1970-1972 Duster hood. \$100.
- ? Jim Beam Dodge Challenger Decanter, Plum Crazy, nice condition, no whiskey, sold in the early 90's. \$60.
- ? Holley 600 Double Pumper carb with fuel line. \$75.
- ? Big block 906 heads, disassembled, cleaned and checked for cracks. \$30.
- ? Auto Meter Sport Comp tach, excellent condition. \$35.

### FOR SALE:

For Sale: 1972-1980 400CI 0.030 Pistons (new) - \$75 - Kevin @ 484-4516.

For Sale: Early 60's Chrysler Imperial/Fury radio - \$200 - Larry @ 721-1663.

For Sale: 2 Roll bars for A-body, \$100 ea or trade, Larry @ 721-1663.

For Sale: **\*\*PRICE REDUCTION\*\*** Fits 1997 and similar Dodge Dakotas: White fiberglass tonneau hard cover with lift cylinders: \$400, Black drop-in bed liner: \$75, Chrome diamond plate bed-rail protectors: \$75, Heavy-duty strapping rail: \$50 OR ALL for \$500 or trade for good quality snow blower. - Jim @ 718-2680.

For Sale: 1972 Dart Swinger, Jerry @ 863-8072.

For Sale: 1974 Dart Swinger, Jerry @ 863-8072.

For Sale: 1975 Dart SE, has front end damage, Jerry @ 863-8072.

### WANTED

Wanted: Wire harness for a rally dash for a 1970 Plymouth Duster - Larry @ 721-1663.

Wanted: Bucket seats for 1967 Satellite/GTX - Scott @ 718-9094.

Wanted: Front bumper for 1967 Belvedere/Satellite/GTX - Scott @ 718-9094.