



# Indy Mopar Club News

www.indymoparclub.com

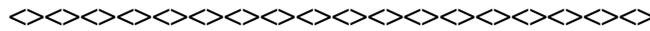
March 2018

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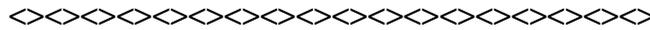
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Meetings are the last Thursday of every month except November & December.

**Next regular meeting: Thursday, March 29, 2018,** will be held at **MCL Cafeteria, 3630 South East Street** Indianapolis (US 31- N of Southern Plaza between Sumner & National). Meet for dinner at 6pm, meeting at 7pm. A Map Quest link is available on the IMC website – [www.indymoparclub.com](http://www.indymoparclub.com).



Welcome to new members **Terry and Kay Thompson**, Carmel, IN, with a 1934 Chrysler Ca Sedan



## Automotive Archeology: The History of my 1970 ‘Cuda 440-6 PART ONE

This is the first part of the story of the history of a project car I’ve had for nearly 29 years now. It also explains my recent renewed interest in learning about its history and past glory...

In 1987 after 5 long years, I had completed the restoration of my ’68 Hemi Road Runner. At the time, I also had a number of other projects I had accumulated over the years. One was a 1970 AAR Cuda body that my brother Jim had given me back around 1980 for helping him on one of his other cars. With my 3-1/2 car garage full, the AAR roller sat out next to the building but could be seen from the highway. It attracted a lot of attention with its light-yellow color. As the car had a lot of serious rust issues (quarters, lower fenders, firewall, floor pans to name a few) and just having completed the RR after 5 long years, I was not quite ready to jump in on another rusty ‘strip to a shell’ restoration. One persistent young man however, after spotting it, started stopping in quite frequently, hounding me to sell it. For what seemed like months, he kept asking and one day in late 1988, made me one of those offers which at the time I thought I could not refuse. The Musclicar crazy prices had not quite taken off yet for project cars and this car was very rusty. There were no easily obtained replacement sheetmetal at this time and I had just been through a nightmare getting non-rusted metal for my Road Runner.

As the money changed hands and the AAR left the driveway, I knew I wanted another ‘Cuda some day. Well that day came much quicker than expected. My weekly ritual of buying the central Indiana “TRADER” newspaper the minute it came out, turned up a For Sale ‘package deal’ that I couldn’t pass up. As my mother used to say, my money from the AAR Cuda sale was also likely “burning a hole in my pocket” contributing to buying the project car(s): A 1970 440-6BBL Cuda and a 318 Barracuda parts car.



When purchased, the 440-6 Cuda was only a rolling body with an automatic transmission hanging in it without engine. The entire front doghouse was gone and had been sanded down so surface rust and primer over some original faded red paint remained. Though not much to look at, it was structurally sound. What attracted me was that the main body was surprisingly solid with minimal rust problems except for the trunk floor. And it was a 440-6BBL Shaker car!

Wiring and trim had been removed and filled the passenger compartment and trunk. The interior had been removed though both buckets and rear seats, though tattered, were present. Per the owner it had originally been a Shaker Hood car but those parts were missing when he bought it. The engine was also missing & unfortunately also the fender tag when he purchased it. After checking, the VIN tag on the dash and the mylar VIN label on the door along with stamped body numbers were all correct and matched the Indiana Title. The VIN and "V" code designation defined the car as a 1970 440-6BBL 'Cuda.

The deal was finalized and both cars & parts were eventually loaded on my open trailer and made their way home on January 21, 1989.

About this time, the company I worked for had a project to build a new plant in Reynosa, Mexico. I was assigned as one of the Project Engineers for what was supposed to be a six month stint coming home every two weeks. As the best laid plans sometimes do, this one nose dived when the local General Contractor went belly-up and did not pay his subs. The Construction Bond Company did not pay off either so everything went crazy; with the delays my tour ended up being a year and a half. Home and car projects obviously went on hold. On the positive side, one can make lemonade from lemons. While traveling the Texas border, I found a clapped out '79 Lil Red Express that I purchased on a Visa Card advance for \$1500. I drove it home over a long weekend in 1991 and that became my next project upon my return to Indiana. It's the one I still have it to this day.

Numerous other project cars came and went over the next number of years. The 'Cuda just kept getting shuffled from building to building since there were so many missing parts. There was a lot of info I did not know about it since it was missing the fender tag and build sheet so I was not in any rush to start on it.

I was wise enough to start collecting parts for it when they were still somewhat reasonably priced. Along this line, with assistance from my brother Dan, I traded parts and obtained a very nice OEM Shaker hood and bubble, an NOS 6BBL carb baseplate and a nice Shaker adaptor plate. At some point, I got my hands on an original OEM 69-1/2 440-6BBL Edelbrock aluminum manifold as well which may be pressed into service just to shed some weight off the front end. It is rumored some early '70 models may have been produced with left over aluminum intakes before Chrysler started installing the cast iron 6BBL intakes thereafter. My 'Cuda was assembled in October 1969 per the original door VIN label.

Fast forward to Summer 2016 at a WWII Veterans Benefit Car Show in Avon Indiana. I had the Road Runner out and a gentleman from the area stopped to chat about it. The conversation turns to "other projects" I have (Mopar people rarely have just one car I'm told) and I mention the 440-6 'Cuda. John Davisson to whom I'm speaking, gets very interested and starts asking a lot of questions about it. "What color", "where did it come from", etc. When I say Red and originally from the Plainfield area, he asks if I remember whose car it was in the early '70s. I said I bought it in '89 but the guy I bought it from never transferred the title since it was not running. I told him I have a 1975 Indiana title, signed-over to sell dated 1980. I didn't remember the name on the title right off the top of my head but thought I'd recognize it if I heard it. John threw out a name and the name clicked. "Yes that's it" I said and John was jubilant. He told me he had gone to school with that owner and had ridden in my 'Cuda when they were in Avon High School in the early 70s. We could not believe this chance meeting and discussion had taken this turn. Needless to say, I was excited beyond belief. I had a million questions and John tried his best to answer them. He said "Yes it was a Shaker Hood car" and the owner was somewhat of a bad boy with it including having a few run-ins with the local police and some little shows of power over the high school years. John recalled thinking his friend's mom actually bought it as his buddy was only 16 and too young to get a bank loan.

Well after our meeting, this turn of events gave me some renewed interest in my car. I knew something about it now and had a potential source from when the car was nearly new to learn more. John said he had not stayed in touch with his high school buddy over the years but thought some of his other friends may have. He said he'd try to find him for me.

John and I stayed in contact and for a year and a half he still had not located the Cuda's early owner. John was quite frustrated with his other friends for not forwarding a phone number or passing along mine. I had scanned a copy of the 1975 Vehicle Title with his friend's signature as the Seller as proof it was his car. John stayed in touch and gave me updates. A potential meeting, set up through one of the buddies in the fall of 2016 fell through.

2017 came and I had a little fire to start finding parts again. I had purpose at the Mopar Nats as I walked the swap area. I knew I'd need a trunk pan and prices were not going to get lower. Might even be some deals so found one about \$25 cheaper than the rest and saved on shipping by dragging it home in the back of the Lil Red Express. Met with the folks at YearOne and ordered my shaker doors, cables and miscellaneous hardware. I shopped for a space saver tire knowing the correct part numbered ones were more than I was willing to pay. I found a deal on a good one that looks close since this car will never be concourse correct anyway. The search is a lot of the fun so I considered it a successful parts hunt.

Still no contact for the early owner so in what I thought to be my one last effort, I reached out again to John late last summer and said I did not want to be a bother to him so if he could make one final attempt to find the contact & could not, I'd leave him alone. John said it was not a bother, he was going to keep trying and continue to pester his buddies until one of them helped.

John's excited call came the first of October 2017. He had been given a phone number and had spoken to the early owner. John said he'd call me back when he could set up a visit.

The meeting was set for Sunday Oct 29, 2017. John, his friend and his wife would come out to take a look at the car and answer questions. I started working on my list of questions so I would not miss anything. I have accumulated a nice library of Chrysler reference books and started by listing every option that could be ordered on a 1970 Cuda. My intention was to review each and note which were on the car when his friend's family obtained the car.

From visual inspection of the 'Cuda, I already knew some options that it came with. Some of those items included:

- The VIN defines it as a 1970 'Cuda, with the 'V' Code in the VIN indicating it is an original 440-6BBL; the 'B' in the VIN indicates it was assembled at the old Hamtramck Assembly Plant in Detroit.
- VIN numbers match between the Title, VIN Tag on the body's Dash, Partial VIN stampings on cowl and radiator support on the body & the mylar VIN Label on driver's side door over original red paint;
- 727 Torqueflite trans (though the trans in the car was from a 1968 GTX or RT, not the original)
- Console, Bucket Seats and Rallye Dash (includes tach & clock); Vinyl Top
- FE5 Rallye Red paint color in door jambs, trunk, interior pan;
- Power Steering and Manual Drum Brakes;
- Shaker Hood cable hole in firewall (thanks to Dave Watt for this heads-up); Shaker actuator cable mount holes were also evident under the dash. Confirmation was still wanted.
- Road Lamps (switch is still mounted at bottom of the dash);
- Rear Differential appears to be original with 3.23 tag covered in grease still in place; Sure-Grip in place;
- Standard 22" radiator support in place with correct partial VIN stamped numbers.
- Dual (left and right) side exterior rear-view mirrors mounts; chrome screws are still in place;
- Driver seat has manual lever for 6-way seat adjustment option;
- Black Vinyl buckets & rear seat upholstery (damaged) in place;
- Standard AM Radio is in place with a Glove Box optional key lock

A few items on the car still needed clarification:

- 15" Rallye Wheels came on the car when I bought it. Originally 15" wheels would have required a space saver tire per original sales reference information, but the spare tire mount did not match a space saver so this needed clarification from the previous owner.
- Bumpers were not in place when car purchased so determination of chrome vs rubber needed. Two different Painted Rubber Bumper options were available with FE5 Rallye Red body color.

- The car has a 1972 two spoke Steering Wheel in place.

The afternoon of October 29, 2017 the group arrived at my and Teresa’s house. They wanted to see the car first thing and after looking at a few things, he confidently said “Yes, it’s my old car”. As he walked around it, he pointed out a small repair at the back of the driver quarter corner and the faded white paint in the engine compartment. He said he had painted it white when he pulled the engine for rebuild it so it would lighten up the under-hood area when he worked on his engine. His wife actually got a little teary eyed when she mentioned they had dated and later married while owning this car.



The afternoon was filled with stories, my questions on options the car had when purchased and his detailed answers. It was obvious this was a special car to him based on all the memories he provided. When John and I originally discussed setting this meeting up, I had asked John to see if his friend had any paperwork or pictures of the car back when he owned it. Fortunately, he did bring the only picture he had of the car.

The ‘Cuda was in the background with his wife and their baby in the foreground. Though the front of the car is out of the picture frame, shown clearly are red exterior paint with a matching red racing mirror, a body color red rear rubber bumper, the black vinyl roof and the back edge of the red shaker bubble! There was no hockey stick stripe on the car. I made a color scan copy of the picture and have printed it in color on 8-1/2x11 photo paper.

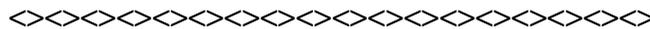
Regarding options, he confirmed the following were in place when he purchased the car in 1972 or 1973; it was his older brother that had signed the loan:

- The car originally had the optional Rim Blow wood steering wheel (with the ‘Cuda emblem);
- The car had red body color front and rear rubber bumpers with chrome tips through the rear valence panel;
- It had a 3.23 rear axle package and 14” steel road wheels with a full-size spare tire in the trunk;
- It had a Red body color Shaker bubble with black grilles when purchased. He later painted the shaker scoop black for his preference.
- It had the standard ‘Cuda chrome Road Lamps under the front bumper and came with the factory chrome hood pins on the Shaker hood;
- It had Red body color Racing Mirrors on both Driver and Passenger sides and a Black Vinyl roof;
- It did not have the vinyl ‘Hockey Stick’ Stripe (ref picture);
- It had a cast iron 6BBL intake manifold (he rebuilt the engine so positive) and had a dual point Prestolite distributor.

I marked up my original yellow legal tablet of questions regarding the cars options as he and I spoke. I asked him to sign and date the document, to which he willingly agreed. Though he filled me in on other info and stories, I have since talked to others to fill in the ownership gap from 1980 until 1989 when I bought it.

Well this is already long enough. If there is interest, I’ll continue this story in a later newsletter.

Tom Kelly March 2018



### **Presidents Message**

Spring is here!

I have seen a few classics that have emerged from their winter slumber on the few nice sunny warm days we had so far this year. Molly even ventured out briefly to enjoy a bit o’ sunshine!

March has been an exciting month with our kickoff event being the Indy Cylinder Head Show held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds March 2-4. It was a beautiful weekend for this event! We truly appreciate being a part of this awesome event! Thank you to Indy Cylinder Head for helping to raise money for JDRF! I also

want to give a shout out to those that helped with the event, the setup/tear down, helping with the membership table, providing door security, and bringing yours cars out of their winter slumber. Thank you to those that volunteered their time to help represent our club at this event.



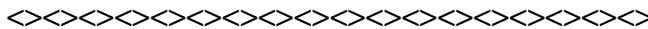
There has been interest in touring the Indy Cylinder Head facility and I am working on trying to get two separate times set up as I am trying to accommodate different schedules. I will have more details at the next meeting as to some suggested dates.

Some Club Ideas:

- I also would like to get our club out there, as a club presence. Club presence is a goal of having 5 cars in a specific location. Locations like “Cars and Coffee”, local shows or events in our community. Just something to think about as it will be on the agenda for the next meeting as part of new business.
- Another thought is to have tech tips / car talk presentation before meeting where we invite someone to speak about something that is of interest. I will include this on new business as well.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting!

Mopar Love,  
Lynn & Molly



## **INDY MOPAR CLUB MONTHLY MEETING, FEBRUARY 22, 2018**

### **WELCOME AND SIGN-IN:**

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Lynn Miller.

Lynn Miller then gave a tribute to Sarah Madeline Kish and asked for a moment of silence in her memory.

The meeting was attended by Chester Branham, Chuck & Linda Butler, Ronda Cherry, Stephen Claycomb, Jack Collins, Bill Dawson, Bill & Randi Edgetton, Tom & Teresa Kelly, Ron & Dru Kriech, Dart & Donna Liebrandt, Mike Leyes, Lynn Miller, Scott Oller, David Opel, Rick Ordo, Evan Springer, Dave Stephenson, Bob Thomas, Steve Wisdom, Rick Zimmerman and guest Bobby Stephenson. A very good showing, thanks to all.

### **Secretary’s Report – Dave Opel**

The minutes were given by Dave Opel concerning previous meeting. A motion was made by Bill Edgetton to accept the report and was seconded by Chester Branham.

### **Treasurer’s Report – Steve Wisdom**

January 25, 2018 Balance was 1660.71. February Income \$170.00; February Expenses \$508.53; February 22, 2018 Balance \$1,322.18. Flower Fund \$220.06  
42 Members currently paid.

A unanimous vote was taken and approved to forward a \$70.00 donation to the Johnson County Community Fund in honor of Sarah Tish.

### **Communication Director – Randy Smith**

No report as Randy was unable to attend.

### **Member News, Birthdays, Anniversaries – Bob Thomas**

Report was given by Bob, congratulations to all.

### **Event Calendar – Bob Thomas**

Upcoming events were noted.

### **Old Business – Lynn Miller**

- A. 2018 Membership Application upgrade – Randy Smith has finalized
- B. World of Wheels Recap – Evan Springer

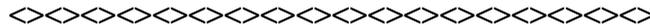
1. Evan indicated the show seems to be growing as all available floor space was filled with many automobiles. For those in attendance it was worthwhile.

- C. Indy Cylinder Head Chrysler Performance Show – March 3-4, 2018.
  - 1. Sign up Sheets – Volunteers Needed.
- D. Confirmation of 2018 Show Dates – Evan Springer & Chuck Butler
  - 1. July 7, 2018 Fletcher CDJR Cruise In
  - 2. DSR Open House - TBD
  - 3. September 8, 2018 Westgate Chrysler Cruise In
    - a. Chuck and Rick to follow up on food availability
- E. Other Unfinished Business – Lynn Miller

**New Business – Lynn Miller**

- A. March 3-4 – Indy Cylinder Head Mopar Performance Show – Indiana State Fairgrounds
  - 1. Sign up Sheets – Volunteers needed
  - 2. Set up – March 2
  - 3. IMC Club Display – 4 cars needed
- B. February 9-11 – World of Wheels – Indiana State Fairgrounds
- C. Club Newsletter Member Profile
  - 1. March – Tom Kelly
  - 2. April – Evan Springer
  - 3. May – Volunteer Needed
- D. Other New Business
  - 1. Ideas for club activities.
  - 2. Show & Tell – Bill Dawson
    - a. Bill informed the club that Meguires has introduced a new automotive product called Platinum. This is a wipe on / wipe off product (not wax) that is guaranteed to last a full year. Easy to apply with a microfiber towel that is furnished.

A motion was made by Chet Branham to adjourn and was seconded by Rick Zimmerman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.  
 Respectfully submitted,  
 Dave Opel



**April Birthdays:**

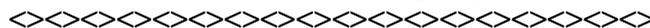
- Terry Snyder, 4-3
- Diane Gillock, 4-4
- Mel Crane, 4-7
- Ron Kriech, 4-8
- Ginger Zimmerman, 4-14
- Stan Sanders, 4-17
- Rick Zimmerman, 4-19
- Evan Springer, 4-23

**April Anniversaries:**

Jeffery and Sherri Andis, 4-29

**Congratulations to all!**

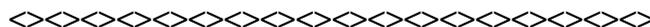
If I have missed anyone it is because I do not have a new listing as yet from the dues renewals.



**Tattler's Corner**



I hope you are all surviving this up and down weather without getting sick. Take care and drive safely.



**2018 INDY MOPAR CLUB – EVENT LIST – TBV – to be verified TBD – to be determined**

Jan	25	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Feb	9-11	Fri-Sun		World of Wheels	Ind State Fairgrounds	Tom Kelly
	18	Sun	3pm	Chicagoland Mopar Connection Swap Meet	Illinois	Tom Kelly
	22	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Mar	2	Fri	TBD	Set-Up – Indy Cyl Hd Chrysler Perfor. Trade Show		Ronda Cherry
	3-4	Sat-Sun		Indy Cyl Hd Chrysler Performance Trade Show	Ind State Fairgrounds	Lynn Miller
	29	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Apr	26	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
May	5	Sat	11a-5p	Cinco de Mopar-American Cancer Society Car Show	Lafayette, IN	Tom Kelly
	15-20	Tue-Sun		Mecum Collector Car Auction	IN State Fairgrounds	Tom Kelly
	18-20	Fri-Sun		Chrysler Power Classic Nat'l Trail Raceway	Columbus OH	Dave Watt
	31	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Jun	20-24	Wed-Sun		Airflow Club of America National Meet	Chico CA	Tom Kelly
	28	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
	29-30	Fri-Sat		FAST-Pure Stock Drags	Martin MI	Dave Watt-Mike Leyes
Jul	7	Sat	TBD	Fletcher CDJR/IMC Cruise-In	Franklin, IN	Lynn Miller
	13-15	Fri-Sun		Carlisle Chrysler Nats	Carlisle PA	Dave Watt
	21-22	Sat-Sun		Belvidere Mopar Happening	Belvidere IL	Tom Kelly
	24-28	Tue-Sat		Plymouth Owners Club National Meet	Northville/Novi MI	Tom Kelly/Jan Peel
	26	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Aug	10-12	Fri-Sun		MOPAR NATIONALS-Nat'l Trails Raceway	Columbus (Hebron) OH	Tom Kelly
	14-18	Tue-Sat		Back to the Bricks Car Show	Flint MI	Tom Kelly
	17-19	Fri-Sun		Woodward Dream Cruise	Oakland County MI	Tom Kelly
	22-26	Wed-Sun		National DeSoto Club Convention	Branson MO	Tom Kelly
	30	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
	31-TBV	Fri	TBD	DSR Open House-Car Show	Brownsburg IN	Evan Springer
Sep	4-8	Tue-Sat		Walter P Chrysler Club National Meet	Chattanooga TN	Tom Kelly
	8	Sat	TBD	West Gate Chrysler / IMC Cruise-in	Plainfield IN	Lynn Miller
	14-15	Fri-Sat		Pure Stock Muscle Car Drag Race	Stanton MI	Dave Watt/Mike Leyes
	20-23	Thu-Sun		NMCA Race-Show	Lucas Raceway (IRP-Clairmont)	Dave Watt
	27	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Oct	6	Sat	TBD	JDRF RUN/WALK – Victory Field	Indianapolis IN	Evan Springer
	25	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg Nominations for 2018 Officers	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Nov	17-18	Sat-Sun		Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals show	Rosemont IL	Tom Kelly
	29	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg Election night for 2019 Officers	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Dec	TBD	Sat		Indy Mopar Club Christmas Party	Steve Wisdom's Clubhouse 1202 Leisure Lane, Greenwood 46142	Lynn Miller
<b>2019</b>						
Jan						
Feb		TBD		World of Wheels	Indiana State Fairgrounds	