



# Indy Mopar Club News



www.indymoparclub.com

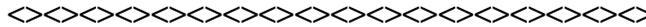
June 2021

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*Meetings are normally the last Thursday of every month except November & December. Refer to the President's Message for both those and future meeting dates.*

**June 24, 2021 at Big Woods Restaurant - 10th & Main Sts, Speedway**



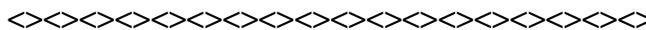
### **Message from the President:**

Welcome to summer! Boy we've had some hot weather already. Beautiful week this week but going to get real hot again, but at least we're getting out with our cars. Both cruise-ins at Lowe's and Suds have been huge, so that's a good sign for everyone that our sport is alive and well. I'm seeing several new cars I've never seen before.

Last meeting we discussed the upcoming shows. We have Fletcher set for July 10. Evan Springer will be the lead contact for that show. Steve Wisdom and I will be out of town that week. Randy has the Fletcher show on our Facebook page along with "Indiana's Fastest Street Cars" and Murphy's Pub House in Fishers on July 27. Next we'll get the York show on for September 11 from 10:00-3:00. I'll be the contact for that show. All 3 of our shows are listed on the [oldcarsonly.com](http://oldcarsonly.com) website.

The June meeting will be held in Speedway at Big Woods restaurant. We'll meet there between 6:00-6:30pm. What we'll do is all kind of congregate somewhere out in their outside area. Once we figure out where we can gather we'll order food. If for some reason it's raining I'll have an alternate idea in mind. Put my phone number (260-403-6616) somewhere in case you need to call me or Tom. Once we've eaten we will take a tour of the car show area we'll be setting up for Saturday July 31. I've spoken to the city again and they are excited to have it. I will need confirmation of volunteers to work the show. I already have some friends that will help as well. If anyone needs me to email them the black and white car show flyer let me know ([jeffplatzer@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffplatzer@hotmail.com)).

I just got my new Mopar Collector's Guide magazine and saw that Charlie Glotzbach has died. He was 82. For those that don't remember him, he was one of the guys that helped to work out the NASCAR Charger 500's and Daytona Chargers for Chrysler, along with Buddy Baker. He drove the test mule Daytona to a record 243 MPH in 1969 at Chrysler's proving grounds. He has also, for 50 years held the record at Bristol for highest average race speed of 101, which has never been broken! Incredible. He even ran in two Indy 500's. See you at Big Woods!  
Jeff



### **Finding an Old Friend on Facebook**

Many of my friends sent me links to car related groups and pictures on Facebook in the past but without having set up an account I could not look at everything forwarded. After pestering my wife for years to open them on her account to read them, I finally set myself up with the purpose of looking at Mopar and Drag Racing related groups.

One of my good friends, Dan McDonald, has a very cool '59 Plymouth Belvedere 2 door Sedan he's working on, so I frequently check on his progress pictures on his Facebook page. As he works for a very cool hot rod fabrication & restoration shop in Indy, he occasionally posts pics of cars that roll into the shop for various work or upgrades.

I'm sure most have heard of someone reconnecting with an old friend through Facebook. Maybe it has even happened to you. Well, interestingly enough, in a bit of a twist, it just happened to me and my brother Dan. It was not a 'Someone', but a very important 'Something' in this instance. Again, it came about, completely by chance, when I happened to see a picture on my friend's FB page.

My friend Dan posted a few pictures of a car that a customer had just brought into the shop for some body panel repair and replacement. Dan McDonald's FB post relayed the story that the car had been purchased when an elderly lady had to go into assisted living. The vehicle had belonged to a relative who had passed away many years before. The car had gone into her garage in 1976 after the death and stayed under the radar for 40+ years. When she finally had to leave her home a couple of years ago, the current owner who was looking for a B-Body at the time, heard about the car, followed the lead and purchased it at that time. After owning it for a couple of years, he just recently decided to finally get it restored and back on the road so after getting an appointment for the work, trailered it to the shop where my friend Dan works.



The FB narrative continued that among other things, this car needed both inner fenderwells replaced as they had been cut out and the K-frame had been modified so was being swapped out as well. My friend described the car as looking like a bit of a time capsule, with original paint from the firewall back, having had an older repair to the right front fender and a different colored fender bolted to the front left from a later accident.

The minute I scrolled down and saw the pictures of the car in the shop's parking lot, I had my friend Dan on the phone! I was a bit giddy as I asked him a few questions about the car. He confirmed a few features on this Turbine Bronze '68 Road Runner 2 door post car that I was looking at on the screen. It was a plain jane 383, column shift Torqueflite base car with no décor package (it lacked the rear trunk trim panel and upgraded vinyl interior like my '68). It had manual steering and manual brakes. It had a 4.56 Sure-Grip 8-3/4 rear end with extra leaves added to the springs.

I excitedly told him I believe that's my brother Dan's old Road Runner he bought in January 1971 off the used car lot at Shadeland Dodge. I relayed that it had been owned by two brothers who raced it and had installed fenderwell headers (reason for the 'cut-out' fenderwells), an aluminum intake, 850 Holley, and manual valve body in the trans. They put it up for sale after retiring it and buying a new 340 Duster. One of the brothers was a mechanic at Shadeland at the time so they put it out on the used car lot to find it a new home.

As we talked, my friend Dan had remembered stories of this car from me in years past so was just as excited as me that this could possibly be the same car. I told him I'd forward the pictures and call my brother Dan (now living in Colorado) to confirm it was his old car. I was already 99% sure it was!

Dan called back and we discussed other clues to look for as he did not have any old paperwork to confirm the VIN. Saving old paperwork was not something you thought about back then as he had bought this car the month before his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.



My friend Dan took more pictures including the K-frame (my brother had modified it to install a Street Hemi in the car later in his ownership), the ashtray opening that had been gutted behind the door to hide an 8-track tape player he installed, the door panels had been vinyl sprayed black to change the interior color and the capper, a picture of a Standard Oil Company oil change sticker on the door from 1972 with “Kendall” in Dan’s handwriting (we worked at Bob’s Standard Service in Clermont so he had written his own sticker).

I’m not sure ‘excited’ best describes knowing a car you assumed was long gone shows up 50 years after you bought it!

Once confirmed it was Dan’s old car, our friend Ron Kriech (who had also ridden in this car as a teenager) and I visited the shop within days to take a look at the Road Runner that had been such a big part of our early lives. It was amazing to see it after all these years. Fortunately, brother Dan had a previously scheduled trip back to Indy the following week so on May 20, 2012 we headed back over to the shop and Dan was reunited with the 1968 Plymouth Road Runner he bought at age 16!

#### **A few interesting notes about this car...**

- It had been set up as an NHRA Stock Eliminator originally car. The brothers later changed the intake and carb and drove it, so it was crazy fast for a street car at the time. On less-than-optimal tires of the day, this 383 RR ran 13.40s at 105 mph. Dan would stop in at the Burger Chef in Brownsburg, pick up friends and their buddies for a thrill ride who’d pay \$1.00 each for a short blast on a country road to cover gasoline.



- When brother Dan first saw the car at Shadeland Dodge they wanted \$1800 for it and with my brother’s enthusiasm, the salesman knew he finally had his hook in someone on the used race car. My uncle Paul LaGrange sold cars for a west-side Chrysler-Plymouth dealership at the time and thought that was too much money for a modified used car. He called the other salesman and said if you don’t take \$1350 for it, I’ll sell my nephew a 1970 Road Runner off our lot for \$1900. The Shadeland salesman said, “you won’t make any money at that price”. My uncle said you’re right, I won’t make money off family, but you’ll still be stuck with a used race car on your lot. Thanks to his bluff, Dan got the ’68 he really wanted for \$1350!
- Dan wrecked the left front fender while playing ‘kissy-face’ with his girlfriend (later first wife) when he ran off the edge of the road into a parked car on Raceway Road in Clermont. Dan put a new fender and other parts on it and my mom’s cousin who had a body shop in Brownsburg, painted the front end. This was one of the early confirmation points that led to verifying the car with my friend.

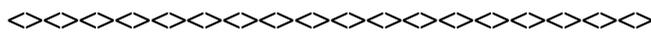


- The fender tag is still on the car and decodes as an optional 3.55 Sure Grip car with a Scheduled Build Date of Sept 14, 1967 so it was a fairly early build 1968 model. It had the plain taxicab interior with a rubber floor mat instead of carpet. It was a stripper built to race!
- The early Scheduled Build Date reminded me that the very first 1968 Plymouth Road Runner I saw in the flesh was at the 1967 NHRA Nationals at IRP on Labor Day Weekend. Back then, all new car public unveilings were in early to mid-September each year, so the new Road Runner model was not even in showrooms yet. The car had a Michigan Manufacturer's Plate so had been sent down to the Nationals, ahead of its public debut, to stir up some excitement & press for the new Road Runner model and it certainly did!
- The Hemi engine that Dan put in it later had been a repaired 'basket case' engine he bought that had on-going bearing issues. We were young & naive and should have had it line-bored & completely checked out but you live & learn. The original 383 was an awesome engine that lived another day in a '72 Duster (another story that my brothers Dan and Jim should share).

In 1973, Dan got married and had to let it go for something more practical when his insurance payment hit \$500 per year. For those of us who grew up in those times, the fall of the first Muscle car era was driven by insurance companies, rising gas prices and emissions regulations. Dan pulled the Hemi at the time, sold it, put a 383 back in the RR and reluctantly sold it.

Well, to close, this story doesn't have a perfect fairy-tale ending, at least not yet. Though my brother has reached out to the new owner to propose a trade for the '68 Burgundy Road Runner that Dan has currently, there has been no return correspondence at this point. Dan had a plan all along to replicate his old car to include the MM1 Turbine Bronze Metallic color, plain Tan taxi cab interior and trim on his current RR. Now that he has seen the old car, he's even more resolved to complete his current Road Runner to match his original 'old friend'.

Tom Kelly June 2021



### Indy Mopar Club Meeting Minutes Meeting May 27, 2021

#### WELCOME AND SIGN-IN:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by our President Jeff Platzer. Those attending were Jeff Platzer, Ronda Cherry, Steve Claycomb, Jack Collins, Bill & Randi Edgerton, Tom Kelly, Dart & Donna Liebrandt, Dave Opel, John Roberts, Randy Smith, Evan Springer, Jay Williamson, and Steve Wisdom.

#### Secretary Report – Dave Opel

Highlights from April 29, 2021 meeting were presented. They were approved as given.

#### Treasurer's Report – Steve Wisdom

- A. April 29, 2021 balance was \$2,302.92; April 30 & May income was \$1,550.00; April 29 and May expenses were \$789.93; May 27, 2021 Balance \$3,062.99. Flower Fund \$229.65.
- B. 58 Paid Memberships

**Communication Director Report - Randy Smith**

Flyers to be ready for Fletcher Show July 10th. We can print from our computers and distribute.

**Member Birthdays & Anniversary dates - Ronda Cherry**

June report was given with congratulations to all

**Event Calendar - Tom Kelly**

- A. June 24 - Indy Mopar Club Meeting - Big Woods Restaurant - corner of 10th & Main Street, Speedway
- B. July 10 - Fletcher Chrysler/IMC Cruise-In - Franklin
- C. July 31st - Indiana Fastest Street Cars

**Event Advertising - Jeff Platzer**

- A. Members please continue to distribute flyers announcing Fletcher Show and Indy's Fastest Street Car Show.

**Old business - Tom Kelly**

- A. York Show is set for September 11 Fletcher Cruise In - July 10
- B. June meeting - Big Woods Restaurant, 10th & Main Sts. Speedway
- C. Fletcher Cruise-In show - July 10 - Shirts will be available for sale.
- D. Jan Peel inventory evaluation - numerous items were sold to vendors - tires - wheels - hubcaps

**New Business - Tom Kelly**

- A. Club Member Profile
  - 1. June - Tom Kelly
  - 2. July - Randy Smith
  - 3. August - Mopar Nationals Recap
- B. Discuss June Speedway Meeting
  - 1. Flyers
  - 2. Shows and businesses
  - 3. Bob Davidson to provide music at Indiana's Fastest Street Car Show

Ronda Cherry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jay Williamson seconded the motion, the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50

Respectively submitted - Dave Opel



**July 2021 Birthdays:**

Barbara Crane, 7-3  
 Ray Bridwell, 7-20  
 Ely McCalip, 7-30

Jim Rockey, 7-3  
 Mary Ordo, 7-27

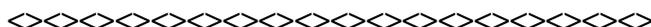
David Tays. 7-7  
 Dart Liebrandt, 7-28

**July 2021 Anniversaries:**

Jeff and Deb Platzer, 7-25  
 Rick and Ginger Zimmerman, 7-28

Jay and Caryn Williamson, 7-26  
 Larry and Susan Mayes, 7-31

**Congratulations to all!**



**Tattler's Corner**

How does an open header hemi-powered altered wheelbase car sound?  
 RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR or ask Jeff Platzer



Jan	28	<b>Cancelled</b>	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	<b>Cancelled</b>	MCL Cafeteria	Jeff Platzer
Feb	25	<b>Cancelled</b>	Sun Thurs		WPC Winter (Mopar) Swap Meet Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	<b>Rescheduled Feb 6, 2022</b>	Macomb College Detroit MCL Cafeteria	Dave Watt Jeff Platzer
Mar	5 6-7 25		Fri Sat-Sun Thurs		Indy Cyl Hd Show Set-up Indy Cyl Hd Chrysler Performance Trade Show Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg		Ind State Fairgrounds MCL Cafeteria	Ronda Cherry Jeff Platzer Jeff Platzer
Apr	16-18 29		Fri-Sun Thurs		O'Reilly World of Wheels Car Show Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg		Ind State Fairgrounds MCL Cafeteria	Jeff Platzer Jeff Platzer
May	13-14 14-22 27		Thur-Fri Fri-Sat wk later Thurs		FAST-Pure Stock Drags - US 131 Motorsports Park - Martin, MI Mecum Collector Car Auction Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg		IN State Fairgrounds MCL Cafeteria	D Watt/M Leyes Ronda Cherry Jeff Platzer
Jun	4-5 16-20 24		Fri- Sat Wed-Sun Thurs		No Prep Kings Norwalk Raceway Park Plymouth Owners Club National Meet Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg		Columbus OH Springfield, IL Speedway-Big Woods Restaurant	Jeff Platzer Tom Kelly-Jan Peel Jeff Platzer
Jul	10 9-11 7-28 - 8-1 29 31 31		Sat Fri-Sun Tue-Sun Thurs Sat Sat		Fletcher Chrysler - IMC Cruise-In Carlisle Chrysler Nats National DeSoto Club National Meet Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg Indiana's Fastest Street Car Show-IMC Cinco de Mopar-Car Show 9 Irish Bros-East		Franklin, IN Carlisle PA Brookfield, WI MCL Cafeteria Speedway IN Lafayette, IN	Evan Springer Dave Watt/Tom Kelly Tom Kelly Jeff Platzer Jeff Platzer Tom Kelly
Aug	1 - TBC 4-8 13-15 21- 21- 26		TBC Sat Wed-Sun Fri-Sun <b>TBV</b> Sat <b>TBV</b> Sat Thurs		Indiana's Fastest Street Cars Walter P Chrysler Club National Meet MOPAR NATIONALS-Nat'l Trails Raceway Columbus (Hebron) OH Woodward Dream Cruise (week long lead up) Spring Mill St Park-Vintage Trailer Cruise Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg		Speedway, IN Auburn Hills, MI Oakland County MI Mitchell IN MCL Cafeteria	Jeff Platzer Tom Kelly Tom Kelly Jeff Platzer Tom Kelly Jeff Platzer
Sep	3- 11 13-17 17-18 23-26 30 <b>TBD</b>	<b>TBV</b>	Fri Sat Mon-Fri Fri-Sat Thu-Sun Thurs Sat		DSR Open House-Car Show York Chrysler / IMC Cruise-in Airflow Club of America 57 <sup>th</sup> National Meet Pure Stock Muscle Car Drag Race NMCA Race-Show Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg JDRF RUN/WALK – Victory Field Baseball Stadium - Indianapolis IN		Brownsburg, IN Plainfield IN Independence, MO Stanton MI Lucas Raceway (IRP-Clermont) MCL Cafeteria	Evan Springer Chuck Butler Tom Kelly D Watt/M Leyes Dave Watt Jeff Platzer Steve Wisdom
Oct	28		Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg Nominations for 2022 Officers		MCL Cafeteria	Jeff Platzer
Nov	18 20-21		Thurs Sat-Sun		Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg NOTE: 1 week early because of Thanksgiving - Election night for 2022 Officers Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals show		MCL Cafeteria Rosemont IL	Jeff Platzer Tom Kelly/Dave Watt
Dec	11	<b>TBV</b>	Sat	4p	Indy Mopar Club Christmas Party NOTE: NO DECEMBER MEETING AT MCL		Steve Wisdom's Clubhouse 1202 Leisure Lane, Greenwood 46142	Steve Wisdom

**Local Cruise-Ins (Reoccurring)**

May thru Sept	5-9pm	Danville Cruise-In 1st Friday of Month	Danville IN Town Square	Tom Kelly
<b>TBV</b>	6-9pm	Lowes Summer Cruise-in - Every Sat Night	Avon IN US 36	Jeff Platzer
<b>TBV</b>	<b>TBV</b>	Mooreville Cruise-in / <b>TBV</b>	Mooreville IN	Dick Crawmer
<b>TBV</b>	<b>TBV</b>	The SUDS Cruise-in / <b>TBV</b>	Greenwood IN	Evan Springer
<b>TBV</b>	<b>TBV</b>	Martinsville Thursday Cruise on the Square	Martinsville IN	Dick Crawmer



Remember all the men and women that made our celebrations possible



Stay well so that we can go back to normal living.