



# Indy Mopar Club News



www.indymoparclub.com

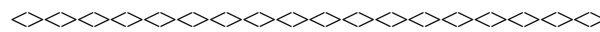
APRIL 2023

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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.*

**Next regular meeting: April 27, 2023**; 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)



### Message from Jeff Platzter, President:

Hello everyone and welcome spring! We've had a few really nice days to get us excited, but we have a few lingering cold spells as usual.

I'm still hoping that the Hummel Park show on April 29 is a nice day. Let's all try to make that one.

The good news of course is that Suds is under new ownership, which are the relatives of the current owner/previous owner. The restaurant days of operation are expanded as is the menu, so ideally things will be even better than ever. I suspect it's going to be very busy there this year. You can see their updated website on Facebook at "The Suds Diner of Greenwood"

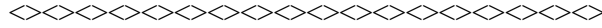
The Fletcher Chrysler cruise-in is firmed up for July 8 from 10-2pm, so get that on your calendar. The York one in Plainfield should be Sept. 30, and I am just waiting for final confirmation.

As I said at the last meeting, this is the year to go to Detroit for the Dream Cruise (Aug. 18-19), because you can go to both the big Mopar show at the M1 complex in Pontiac on the 18<sup>th</sup> and then do the Dream Cruise on Saturday. This hasn't happened before, so this is a very cool year to go.

As many of you know, Dodge is naming one of the late modern Challengers the "Black Ghost" after the legendary one from Detroit. Walter & Elaine brought the story to our last meeting, and I read up on the original car from Detroit, owned by a motorcycle cop by the name of Godfrey Qualls. As many of you know I am from Detroit, yet never knew of the car, but having read the story I learned that the car would race in an industrial area and then disappear, most probably because the owner was a Detroit cop. I see that the car is going up for auction at Mecum in Indy next month, so it'll be interesting to see what it brings.

We had a very good turnout at the last meeting so let's keep working on getting to MCL as best you can. If you find a bottle or two of some new detailing products, or anything else we can use for our raffle, please bring it. We need a few more items.

Thanks!  
Jeff



## March 30, 2023 Indy Mopar Club Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7pm by IMC Club President. - Jeff Platzer.
2. Introduction of Members and Guests – Jeff Platzer.
3. Secretary report - Dave Opel.
4. Treasurer’s Report – Steve Wisdom.
  - a. Balance Sheet March 30, 2023,
    - i. March 2023 Income: \$1,264.27
    - ii. March 2023 Expense: \$1,036.74
    - iii. March 30, 2023 Balance: \$1,369.67
  - b. Flower Fund: \$92.21
  - c. IMC Shirt Prices will need to increase to \$12 & \$15 (per style) to cover supplier cost increase.
  - d. 59 Member families Paid to date.
5. Communications Director Report – Not presented (Randy Smith absent)
  - a. Website Domain Renewal Fee payment was made.
6. Member News, Birthdays, Anniversaries – Ronda Cherry
  - a. Read from newsletter – Congratulations to all!
7. Event Calendar – Tom Kelly
  - a. Routed printed list of area cruise-ins (TK will add to IMC Event Calendar).
  - b. Sat May 20 is a Cruise in for Amity Baptist Church on US 31 South of Franklin to benefit Victims of Fires.
  - c. Sat April 29 is “Cruisin for a Cure” in Plainfield IN. Hummel Park. Benefits American Cancer Society.
  - d. The Suds Cruise-ins (Greenwood) will start Saturday April 15. It was discussed that there is an opportunity for members to attend The Suds Cruise-in after the Fletcher Cruise on July 8.
  - e. Reminder about Mopar Nats advanced registration deadline June 30 for discount.
8. Attendance – Ronda Cherry
  - a. 21 Members & 1 Visitor present.
  - b. Attendees: Jeff Platzer, Ronda Cherry, Steve Wisdom, Dave Opel, Dick & Dorinda Crawmer, Dart & Donna Leibrandt, Tom Kelly, Ron Kriech, Rick Ordo, Rick Zimmerman, Walter & Elaine Thomas, Summer McFarland, Harry & Luanne Ewing, Scott Oller, John & Vickie Walker, Jay Williamson and guest Steve Wisdom’s brother David.
9. New Business – Jeff Platzer
  - a. 50/50 held to increase the Club Flower Fund. Won by Harry Ewing.
  - b. Dave Opel provided a Get-Well card which was routed for members to sign for Jan Peel who is still recovering. She is improving.
  - c. Jeff reviewed the Indy Cylinder Head Show and the IMC Swap Meet spot. It was a success.
  - d. Jeff noted the Sat April 29 Hummel Park is a very nice show and would be a great for IMC attendance.
  - e. Fletcher Show was discussed.
  - f. York Cruise-in update. Jeff Platz’s review with York management for a Sept 30 date is still in process.
  - g. Newsletter Articles/Member Profile needed for May & June. Jeff Platzer is covering April.
10. Old Business – Jeff Platzer
  - a. New Member Payment Option by Credit/Debit Card Options for Club Dues has been set up per Jay Williamson.

11. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting by Dick Crawmer, Seconded by Rick Zimmerman. The Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

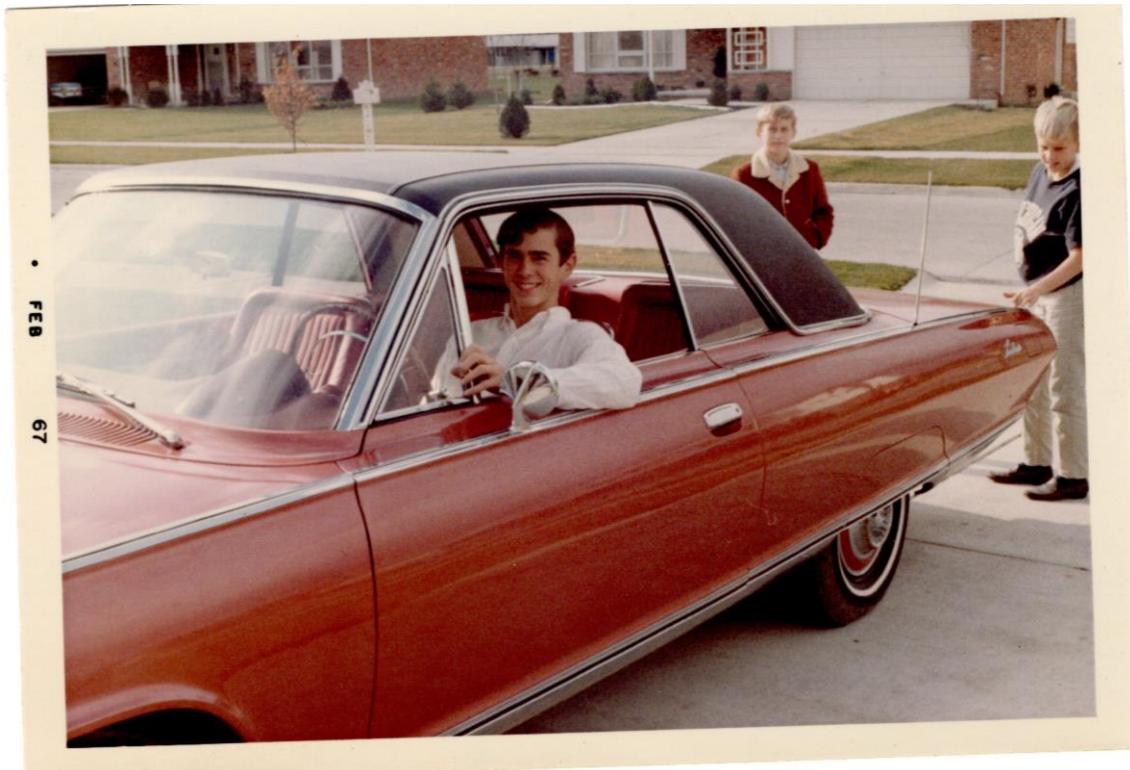
*Submitted by Dave Opel, IMC Secretary*



New style IMC iron-on patch is \$5 cash or \$6 credit to cover costs. See Jeff Platzer.

**April Member's Newsletter Contribution: Jeff Platzer**

The story of the turbine car is so cool. I cannot tell it any better than the professional writers, so for those that are interested I pulled some key paragraphs from a Car & Driver article. As many of you know I was the lucky son of a Chrysler engineer. He was a research physicist and primarily worked on electrical inventions. My father had many patents with Chrysler, one of his most famous being the automatic night/day rearview mirror, which carried over to all the manufacturers. The photo of me in the driver's seat was 1967 as I recall, and I drove the car to high school for a show & tell. My dad brought the car home from work 2-3 times, and I remember riding around in it. To say it was a curiosity magnet is an understatement. You can see that the car looks like a Thunderbird as it's the same designer. The car certainly has that futuristic rocket look. The interior was just phenomenally cool. The jet engine sound though was just the most obvious cool factor. Everyone thought the car was super-fast by the way it sounded, but in reality, it was a highly detuned dog. But who cares, right? It was one of those incredible memories.



A 'young Jeff Platzer' behind the wheel of one of rare Chrysler Turbine cars at the time!

*From the May 1989 issue of Car and Driver.*

“The old **Chrysler** Corporation was going to build cars with gas-turbine engines just as soon as...well, pretty damn soon. What started out—in the minds of a few engineers stimulated by World War II inventiveness—as a brainstorm that just might work became a drive-it-around prototype in October of 1953: Chrysler began testing a stock-bodied 1954 Plymouth powered by a turbine. As the decade went by, more and more turbine prototypes whirred out of the Chrysler Engineering Department and onto the streets of America, where they were captured on film and pictured in every newspaper, mechanics' magazine, and car book in the country. General Motors and **Ford** had turbines, too, but Chrysler seemed to be out front, closest to the day when we'd all be whirring around in jet-age cars devoid of cooling systems, mufflers, pistons, valves, carburetors, and the need for gasoline. They'd run on kerosene or diesel fuel or, gee, even vodka if you were into party tricks. Chrysler publicists, at a press gala, went so far as to pour in a few precious ounces of fancy French perfume. All it did was give the exhaust that come-hither scent, according to the reviews.

This gas-turbine enthusiasm kept building on itself until, finally, the future began to lose its fuzziness. On May 14, 1963, at the Essex House hotel in New York City, Chrysler unveiled a turbine car that wasn't a prototype. It was the first of a 50-car run of identical, shimmering-bronze Ghia-bodied glamour-cars that were going to be loaned to ordinary folks for driving to work or cruising the strip or whatever ordinary folks did with cars. The sole purpose was to determine the reaction of typical American drivers to turbine-powered vehicles, Chrysler said. Genuine market research, in other words, with the implication that if the folks out there panted hard enough and gave other indications of a willingness to sign checks, there might soon be turbines in every Chrysler dealership from sea to shining sea.”



The cars were styled at Chrysler under Elwood P. Engel, who then was just fresh from Ford. In silhouette, the Turbine Cars looked like the Thunderbirds of the time. That's probably the way Engel thought a four-seater should look. The bodies were handmade in Italy and fitted with engines and chassis at Chrysler's Greenfield plant.



"There are nine left in the world," Stecher says. "Chrysler has three."

“The 1960s-vintage scuttlebutt said the cars were brought in duty-free for a limited time and would ultimately be scrapped to avoid the duty. Not long ago I heard rumors of a big Turbine Car boneyard on some remote section of the proving grounds. Stecher confirms the hearsay. The only escape from the tax was to send them back to Italy or give them to museums in non-running condition. Six cars went to museums with their engines removed and mounted on display stands. But museum collections are not forever, it seems, and now a few Turbine Cars are winding up in private hands. By a quirk of the tax rules, after five years of display time the cars are exempt from the duty forevermore. The Domino's Pizza man, Tom Monaghan, recently acquired a Turbine Car for his collection, although someone beat him to the engine.

I ask Stecher why turbines never made it into production. He says that big improvements came fast in the early days, and optimism was everywhere. But as the state of the art approached an acceptable level for passenger cars, progress began to drag. For a while, NOx emissions were formidable. When that barrier was finally surmounted, the energy crunch hit. Fuel economy was always a turbine shortcoming, but fifteen years of development had pushed it up to a rough sort of parity with the big V-8 cars of the time—17 or 18 mpg on a trip, somewhere in there. But when crisis-spooked car buyers began turning to 30- and 40-mpg imports, turbine optimism went limp. In the mid 1970s, Chrysler won a \$6.4 million government contract for turbine development. There was even a compact, front-drive turbine in the modeling stage as the 1980s dawned. But from a turbine engineer's standpoint, the future looked awful. The turbine can be a highly efficient engine in constant-speed operation, as in an airplane or a generating station, but it's a guzzler in stop-and-go driving. The original attraction for cars was perfect smoothness and—let's face it—novelty. But the one scenario not foreseen in those growth-crazy postwar years was exactly the one that was coming to pass. Fuel was going to be limited. Chrysler finally resigned itself to that outlook in April 1981 and turned off the Turbine Lab's lights for the last time.”

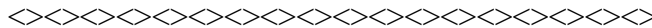
I recall the Turbine Car's whirring sound well enough, but there are many shades of whirl. On the scale of Boeings to Cuisinarts, I wouldn't have remembered exactly where it fit. But now with the ignition on and the blades spinning up to speed, I hear an air rush that's pure Electrolux. Bring on the carpet.



The tach needle requires maybe three seconds to swing up to idle—at 22,000 rpm. The whir is shrill and airy, altogether wrong for a car. And altogether perfect for fantasy voyages. For sure, the interior is fantastic. Three deeply tunneled dials, clustered like cannons, point at me through a hooded opening in the dash. Bronze leather conforms to every surface that's not chrome. The bright turbine-motif console extends from firewall to trunk, bisecting the cockpit. The radio face has two Civil Defense symbols, each one a triangle within a circle, showing where to tune when the commies drop the big one. The tach reads to 60,000 rpm.



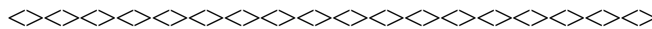
*Other photos from the internet of the Birth, and the unfortunate Death, of the some of the Turbine Cars...*



**Tattler's Corner**



Jan, Best Wishes from the Club for you continued improvement! tvk



**MAY 2023 Birthdays:**



**Harry Ewing 5-7**  
**Kevin Nitzel 5-11**  
**Jackie Tays 5-14**  
**Rick Bruettig 5-19**  
**Mary Leyes 5-23**

**Sandra Williard 5-10**  
**Nicole Springer 5-12**  
**Xiang Thomas 5-16**  
**Glenn Keilman Jr. 5-19**  
**Walter Thomas 5-25**

**Dick Crawmer 5-11**  
**Ed Leyes 5-12**  
**Keith Rohloff 5-16**  
**Steve Wisdom 5-22**  
**Mike Leyes 5/28**

**MAY 2023 Anniversaries:****Nicole & Evan Springer 5-01****Xiang & Bob Thomas 5-20****Kim & Bob Vorpe 5-19****Michelle & Steve Haug 5-25****CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!**

<b>2023 INDY MOPAR CLUB – EVENT LIST</b>							<b>TBV – to be verified</b>	<b>TBD – to be determined</b>	<b>R1 Updated 3-19-23 tvk</b>	<b>IMC Contact</b>
Jan	26 -	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
Feb	5	Sun		WPC Winter (Mopar) Swap Meet	Expo Ctr Warren MI				Dave Watt	
	23	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
Mar	2	Thurs		Indy Cyl Hd Show Set-up					Ronda Cherry	
	3-4	Fri-Sat		Indy Cyl Hd Chrysler Performance Trade Show	Ind State Fairgrounds				Jeff Platzer	
	24-26	Fri-Sun		O'Reilly World of Wheels Car Show	Ind State Fairgrounds				Jeff Platzer	
	30	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
Apr	27	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
May	12-13	Thur-Fri		FAST-Pure Stock Drags - US 131 Motorsports Park - Martin, MI					Dave Watt	
	12-20	Fri-Sat wk later		Mecum Collector Car Auction	IN State Fairgrounds				Ronda Cherry	
	25	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
Jun	18-24	Sun-Sat		Dodge Brothers Club	New York				Tom Kelly	
	29	Thurs	6-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
Jul	8	Sat	10a-2p	Fletcher Chrysler - IMC Cruise-In	Franklin, IN				Steve Wisdom	
	16-20	Sun-Thurs		Airflow Club of Amer National Meet	Cambria CA				Tom Kelly	
	14-16	Fri-Sun		Chryslers at Carlisle	Carlisle PA				Dave Watt/Tom Kelly	
	19-23	Sun-Thur		Ply Owners Club National Meet	Kalamazoo MI				Tom Kelly-Jan Peel	
	26-30	Wed-Sun		The National DeSoto Club Natl Meet	Chatham Ontario Canada				Tom Kelly	
	27	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
Aug	2-6	Wed-Sun		Walter P Chrysler WPC Natl Meet	Niagara Falls, NY				Tom Kelly	
	11-13	Fri-Sun		MOPAR NATIONALS-Natl Trails Raceway	Columbus (Hebron) OH				Tom Kelly	
	19	Sat		Woodward Dream Cruise (wk long lead up)	Oakland County MI				Jeff Platzer	
	31	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
Sept	14-16	Thurs-Sat		Pure Stock Muscle Car Drag Race	Stanton MI				Dave Watt/Tom Kelly	
	TBD	Sat	9a-12p	Cruise Indy	Carmel IN				J Platzer	
	15-17	Fri-Sun		Holley Moparty-Beech Bend Raceway	Bowling Green KY				J Platzer	
	21-24	Thu-Sun		NMCA Race-Show	Lucas Raceway (IRP-Clermont)				Dave Watt	
	28	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
	30 - TBV	Sat	10a-2p	York Chrysler / IMC Cruise-in	Plainfield IN				Jeff Platzer	
Oct	TBD	Sat	tbid	JDRF RUN/WALK – Victory Field Baseball Stadium - Indianapolis IN					Steve Wisdom	
	26	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg Nominations for 2023 Officers	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
Nov	18-19	Sat-Sun		Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals show	Rosemont IL				Tom Kelly/Dave Watt	
	30	Thurs	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria				Jeff Platzer	
Dec	10	Sun	5p	Indy Mopar Club Christmas Party	Steve Wisdom's Clubhouse				Steve Wisdom	
				NOTE: NO DECEMBER MEETING AT MCL	1202 Leisure Lane, Greenwood 46142					

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### Local 2023 Cruise-Ins (Re-occurring)

May thru Sept	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri	5-9pm	Danville Cruise-In 1st Friday of Month	Danville IN Town Square	Tom Kelly
May thru Sept	Sat	6-9pm	Lowes Summer Cruise-in - Every Sat Night	Avon IN US 36	Jeff Platzer
May thru Sept		<b>TBV</b>	<b>Mooresville Cruise-in / TBV</b>	<b>Mooresville IN</b>	<b>Dick Crawmer</b>
Apr thru Oct	Sat	4pm	The SUDS Cruise-in	Greenwood IN	Evan Springer
May thru Sept	Thur	5-9pm	Martinsville Thursday Cruise on the Square	Martinsville IN	Dick Crawmer
May thru Sept	Sat	4-9pm	Noblesville Cruise	Noblesville IN	
Apr thru Oct	Fri	5pm --	Culvers 11351 E. Washington St.	Indpls IN	
May thru Aug	4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	5:30-7:30p	North Salem Cruise at Post Office	North Salem IN	