

50 YEARS OF MOPAR BIG BLOCKS

DEC 2008

MOPAR ACTION



SRT-71

# MOPAR ACTION™

**BREAKTHROUGH!**

# 6-PACK EFI 6.1 HEMI STROKER



**3rd-Gen Hemi Swaps  
OVERHAULIN' TV's '72 392 CHALLENGER  
SUPER LO-BUCK 5.7 VALIANT**

**MOPAR LEGEND DON GROTHEER**

\$4.95

1 2 >

0 27172 90632 9

**TECH GONE WILD!**  
STEERING UPGRADE TRICKS & SECRETS  
PROJECT RAM: BUCKS DOWN? POWER UP!

**NEW FACTORY  
HEMI SUPER STOCK  
HITS THE TRACK**

**LX NATS: NEW VS. OLD HEMI CHALLENGER SHOOTOUT**

# MOPAR ACTION

Mopar Action suggests that you read responsibly.

www.moparaction.com



## COVER STORY

### 12 SRT-71

An "old school" restomod '71 Charger with the only EFI six-pack 3-gen 426 Hemi on the planet.

## MIND-BUSTING MOPARS

### 20 TICKLED PINK

One for the ladies—the 1955 Dodge La Femme. Would a real Mopar man dare drive it?



### 32 GONE IN 60 SECONDS

Here's a really trick '69 Road Runner: Now you see it, now you don't.

### 44 GIVE & TAKE

The life and times of an amazing '67 Coronet survivor.

### 48 OVERHAULED!

1972 Challenger makes it to "Overhaulin'" TV, with some wild twists and turns along the way.

### 54 OPEN WIDE AND SAY "AH"

How to race a current SS/AH Super Stocker for fun (and no profit).



### 70 BUDGET BRICK

A real low-buck 5.7L Hemi Valiant, dressed to look like a stock '71. Lotsa tricks here.

## WRENCH-BUSTING TECH

### 60 TRUCK STOP

#### Project Scat Dak II Part 1

Building a first-generation 360 Dakota on our usual shoestring budget. Bash Chevys on chump change.

### 76 MOPARS ON STEEROIDS

Part 1 of our lifetime collection of steering tips, tricks and secrets. And they're all yours—for free!

## GUT-BUSTING FEATURES

### 26 RACING, 'RENCHING AND 'RITHMETIC

Don Grotheer—Mopar drag racing legend and Plymouth Performance Clinic honcho.

### 38 THE BIG ENGINE THAT COULD

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Chrysler's B-engine. A look back.

### 66 LATE BLOOMERS

We're not talking underwear here, but the LX and Beyond Nationals—it's beyond your mildest dreams.



## WE'VE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST

### 6 EDITOR'S NOTES

### 8 TECH TOPICS

### 18 RESTO TOPICS

### 96 NEXTO-TO-THE-LAST-PAGE PAGE

Drive for free! New no-fuel engine

### 97 ADVERTISERS INDEX





# LATE BLOOMERS



**By Al Dente**

Photos by TheBruntBros

**W**hen Ma Mopar brought back their rear drive passcars (LX) with 3G Hemi power under the hood, it opened a whole new chapter in Mopar performance. And it created a new niche of Mo'fan. Because of their relatively few numbers in the grand scheme of the Mopar hobby, these Mopes tended to be socked away in a small corner of the big Mo'shows, and their owners would hang out in sort of a late-model clique.

So, why not come up with a show dedicated just for the LXers, where the corner of a typical big show would be the entire show? Why not, indeed? So, taking a page from the Big Bang theory, show promoters Chuck Green, and Anthony Carter, did just that. They instantly created the LX and Beyond Nationals, out of...nothing. Bang!

When the cosmic dust cleared, images from the Hubble telescope confirmed the existence of an LX Nationals at National Trail Raceway, Columbus, OH, (Aug. 14-15), where one had never existed before. Naturally, the folks at NASA were excited



*Wall-to-wall Chargers, Magnums and 300s packed the National Trail showfield. And nary a HemiCuda in sight.*



*It was racing between the raindrops on Saturday, with dry conditions on Sunday.*

## The first annual LX and Beyond Nationals.

New vs. old Hemi Challengers,  
where 40 years of technology equates  
to a second in the quarter-mile.



Photo: Phil Hecksel



More radical than a shiny brake pedal  
was the Dr. Kevorkian suicide-door  
conversion.

about this discovery, as were LX fans the  
world over (if you're not excited, we'll  
give you ten seconds to become excited.  
Ten...nine...)

Tipped off beforehand to this  
significant event, we hitchhiked to Ohio  
to check it out. Poor weather on Saturday  
dampened the turnout somewhat, and the  
50 race cars and 80 show cars were less  
than what had been anticipated. Needless  
to say, you didn't have to rent a golf car to  
cover the entire show (not that there were  
any to rent). The sun shone on Sunday,  
but the damage had been done. The  
weather forecast, however, didn't deter

# North East Restoration & Fabrication, LLC

- Turn Key or Partial Restoration
- Concourse Quality
- Complete Drive Train Service
- Roll Bars and Cages
- Lead Work
- Panel Fabrication
- Component Restorations
- Custom Sheet Metal

*"When Quality Counts"*

[www.northeastrestorations.com](http://www.northeastrestorations.com)

[pquad@cox.net](mailto:pquad@cox.net) (401) 996-1254

P.O. Box 37 Carolina, Rhode Island 02812

**MOPAR TILT  
Key Column!**

- Mopar style key and tumbler!
- Features slip shaft and universal joint
- All new components • Polished or Paintable

New Stainless  
TUFF Wheel with  
horn cap

Adapters for OEM  
Mopar columns

NEW Mopar  
steering box

**FLAMING  
RIVER**

MADE IN THE USA

**866-822-1626 FAX 440/826-0780**  
[www.flamingriver.com](http://www.flamingriver.com)

a guy named George from driving his 2006 Magnum SRT8 some 2600 miles from CA, down near the Mexican border, to Ohio, to cop the Long-Distance Award.

Still, the plucky promoters put on a good effort, booking in a nostalgia front-engine dragster (something LXers could really relate to). With a history of running six-somethings, this guy was in the mid 9s, as he shut off at the eighth-mile mark (maybe he got paid by the yard).

Turnout notwithstanding, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, and

checking out each others rides. Remember, this is before the Challengers were out there, and that should definitely boost attendance at future LX Nats. (The Challengers, being technically "LC" cars, are the "beyond" in the event's title.) Stay abreast of things by checking [www.chargerforums.com](http://www.chargerforums.com) and [www.lxfors.com](http://www.lxfors.com).

LX racers got in plenty of runs, and were awarded gift certificates for goodies including Goodyear tires and Wiseco forged pistons, in lieu of cash. A bracket class combined V6 and 5.7L Hemi cars, an

Exhibition class was set up for vendors, and a Quick 16 proved that Dan VanHorn, from Wanpagh, NY (hey, that's what they told us, maybe they meant Wantagh, NY), had the quickest LX in the field with an 11.45 @ 120.08 MPH. Even quicker was an '83 Shelby Charger turbo FWD (how'd he get in there?). He ran the quarter in 10.88 @137 MPH; this front-driver could have put the entire show on the trailer. In fact, he did.

Another neat deal was the two makeover cars. Brad Cotterman, from Lima, OH, had his SRT8 Charger treated to some 22 grand



Mopar Action's Pick-Of-The-Show was Nathan Herschbach's '06 Magnum SRT8. His Inertia Motorsports-built Hemi was the first 3G 426 stroker; the car was displayed in Dodge's booth at SEMA in '06. Nat's Magnum runs in the 11s (it's shown here with drag tires), and it holds the speed record for the Texas Mile at 160.898 MPH. These days, the Dodge serves as Nat's daily driver, and he drove the car to the show all the way from Abilene TX. Find out more info about Nat and what he does at [www.Redfox-Racing.com](http://www.Redfox-Racing.com).

**Clay Smith Cams**  
GRINDING CAMS FOR OVER 75 YEARS

"We Build the Best and Fix the Rest"

**MR. HORSEPOWER**



Looking For Mr. Horsepower Shirt  
B22 \$20

Oil Can Banks  
C67 \$20

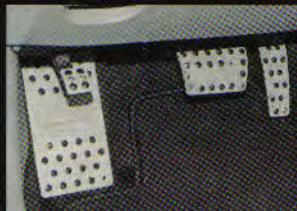
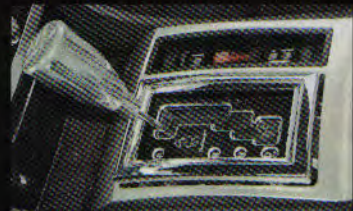
Checked Flag Shirt  
Choose Grey or Black  
T-95

**CUSTOM CAMS MACHINE SHOP**  
**CUSTOM ENGINES**  
**CYLINDER HEADS**  
**HIGH PERFORMANCE SHOP**

Call 714-523-0530 Order 800-454-7999  
Fax 714-522-3315 [www.clay-smith-cams.com](http://www.clay-smith-cams.com)  
5870 Dale Street Buena Park, CA 90621



A big hit with the ladies was this fan's "woody," with its shameless fender badge.



All kinds of aftermarket goodies were evident, including engine braces, pedal dress-ups, shifter handles and plates, trick taillights and carbon fiber air intakes. Engine cover art also was popular.

worth of modifications, and Nick Earls, from the Kansas area had his Top Banana Charger spruced up with about 7 grand worth of goodies. Shades of Overhauledin'.

We guess the defining moment of the event was the shootout pitting an '08 Challenger SRT8 against a 1970 Hemi Challenger. The LX (and Beyond) fans weren't disappointed when the SRT8 whupped

the classic Mope by an average of a full second. Best time for the '70 was 14.20 @ 100 MPH, while the '08 managed a 13.31 @ 105.60 MPH. But, in the third round—a fierce bracket (not heads-up)—competition, it was a different story:

For when the dust had settled, ETs erased all doubt. There was no joy in Mudville—mighty Casey had broke out. ★

**Get Blown**



**New BDS Hi-Helix Pro-Loc Rotors!**

**SALES**

**SERVICE**

**REPAIR**

**39 YEARS OF SERVICE!**

**"We Deliver Horsepower!"**

**BDS**

**562-693-4302**  
[www.BlowerDriveService.com](http://www.BlowerDriveService.com)

12148 Washington Blvd. Whittier, CA 90606 Fax: 562-696-7091