



SCAT PACK NEWS

Volume 30, Issue 1 – January 2024
Celebrating 30 years – 1994 to 2024



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President's Message

Ken Hamer

2024 - A New Year

But first, a reminder:

- *Sam Frisby will happily accept your 2024 club dues. Make Sam smile!*



Almost all of the Inland Mopars Car Club events of 2023 have been completed as I am writing this. The Fort Irwin Toy Drive collection events are in the past, the annual Toy Drive party and pot luck dinner happened on December 9, and all of collected-to-date toys and bicycles were delivered to Fort Irwin on December 17. Toy Drive Coordinator Mike Keller will update those in attendance at the January club meeting with details on the party, end-of-the-year toy drive events and collections, and toy delivery. There is still a little toy shopping to be done with the monetary donations collected at the "Santa's Rock'n Holiday" event, hosted by Inglis Classics Auto Restoration, at Jess Ranch Marketplace in Apple Valley on December 16. Toys purchased with these funds will be delivered to Fort Irwin when we go out for their "Christmas in January" toy distribution on January 6. *If you would like to be included in the club presence at "Christmas in January" and see the payoff of all of our toy drive efforts, please forward a copy of your California Driver License to Mike Keller ASAP so he can arrange for security clearance at Fort Irwin.*

Also on December 16 was "Wreaths Across America". I want to thank BJ Hayden, and Jim & Anita Froelich for joining me at Riverside National Cemetery to place wreaths on the gravesites of our passed club members and current club member relatives interred at RNC.

"Wreaths Across America" is an outstanding organization whose mission is to 'Remember the Fallen', 'Honor Those Who Serve', and 'Teach the Next Generation the Value of Freedom'. Please see <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/About/OurMission> to learn more.



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January Birthdays

(From the 070423 roster)

*Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to:*

- BJ Hayden
- Norma Johnston
- Sil Brander
- Robin Windhorst
- Rick Cook

*Birthday dates have intentionally been removed

**Cactus Cantina
9:00 am breakfast, 10:00 am meeting
151 Alessandro Blvd
Riverside, CA 92508*

Inland Mopars
mailing address:
804 W Sheridan Rd
San Bernardino, CA 92407

www.inlandmopars.org

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

- January 7 (CC)*
- February 11 (CC)*
- March 3 (CC)*
- April 7 (CC)*
- May 5 (CC)*
- June 2 (CC)*
- July 7 (CC)*
- August 4 (CC)*
- September 8 (CC)*
- October 6 (CC)*
- November 3 (CC)*
- December 1 (CC)*

Visitors Welcome

Meeting 1st Sunday of the month except as noted

Bits 'n Pieces: Fort Irwin Distribution Reminder (again)

This is a reminder for anyone interested in attending the toy distribution on Saturday January 6th, you should have provided a copy of your drivers license to me by December 27th at the latest, so I can get them to Fort Irwin so we supposedly won't have a problem when we get there. If you have attended in the past I probably have your license on file but I would have needed confirmation from you if you will be attending.



President's Message (cont)

As mentioned in the December newsletter there was a "very important" item that I forgot to cover during our November club meeting: nominations and election of club officers for 2024. If you were unable to attend the December meeting, then please be advised that during the December meeting those in attendance re-nominated and re-elected each of the 2023 club officers to continue to serve in 2024. The only change was the office of club Secretary. A big 'Thank You' goes out to David "DC" Castagno for volunteering to take on the responsibilities of this office for 2024!

A list of your club officers for 2024 and their contact information is shown on the cover page of each monthly *Scat Pack News* newsletter.

2023 may be on the way out but we still have one more thing on our club schedule: the initial planning meeting for our 2024 "Mopars In May" charity-benefit car show will be held at Mike and Gayle Keller's home on Saturday, December 30, at 10AM. This meeting is to discuss and set an agenda for the initial combined-host meeting we will be having with Elite Mopars in January. Every club member's input is important to make sure we set a complete discussion agenda and cover all aspects of our 2024 car show so please make every effort to attend this meeting. Mike and Gayle's address is 1636 N. Glenn Avenue, Ontario, CA 91764. Hopefully we will have information on the combined-host meeting with Elite Mopars for discussion at our January club meeting. Stay tuned.

February 2024 brings the Grand National Roadster Show to the Fairplex in Pomona. This is our main fundraiser for Inland Mopars. The sign-up sheet for club member work shifts was passed around at the December meeting. The following shifts are still open and available:

- Thursday, Feb. 1, 10:00AM-2:30PM (1 spot available)
- Thursday, Feb. 1, 2:30-7:00PM (2 spots available)
- Friday, Feb. 2, 3:30-8:00PM (3 spots available)
- Saturday, Feb. 3, 2:30-8:00PM (2 spots available)
- Sunday, Feb. 4, 9:00AM-2:30PM (2 spots available)

First come, first served.

Remember, you will receive free Grand National Roadster Show admission (\$30 value) and free parking for the day(s) you sign up to work. Your time is yours either before or after your work shift to see this outstanding event

Please contact me as soon as possible to claim your preferred shift.

The next club meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 7, in the banquet room at Cactus Cantina restaurant in Riverside. Usual times: 9am for those wanting breakfast, with the meeting getting started as close to 10am as possible.

As always, ***please*** bring some suggestions for monthly club activities so we can expand our activity calendar for 2024. We will discuss if we have time...and remember, monthly club activities ***DO NOT HAVE TO BE CAR RELATED!*** What do you really enjoy that you would like to share with club members? Research what your city may offer and bring the information to our club meeting.

Let's plan some fun activities!

Continued on Page 4

President's Message (cont)

We also have a continuing need for one or more individuals to maintain our club social media platforms on both Facebook and Instagram, and we should develop a presence on X (formerly Twitter). Please let me know if you may be interested in any of these opportunities.

As always, thank you to everyone for all you do to make Inland Mopars Car Club the very best it can be - the club's reputation is a direct reflection of the membership //



Texting For Seniors

 submitted by Ken Hamer

BFF - best friend fell

BTW - bring the wheelchair

TTYL - talk to you louder

BYOT - bring your own teeth

LMDO - laughing my dentures out

FWIW - forgot where I was

IMHAO - is my hearing aid on?

OMMR - on my massage recliner

ROFLACGU - rolling on the floor laughing and can't get up



Meeting Minutes – December

The December 3, 2023 meeting of Inland Mopars, held at the Cactus Cantina in Riverside, was called to order at 10:10AM by Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Whitson. Club President Ken Hamer presiding. Our meeting opened with Bill Whitson leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Ken thanked all for attending.

Members present: Sil & Carol Brander, DC Castagno, Gene & Susan Endo, Sam Frisby, Jim Froelich, Ken Hamer, BJ Hayden, Bill Heckman, Norma Johnston, Mike Keller, John Smithson, Ken Strathman, and Bill & Debbie Whitson.

Members missing: All who weren't at the meeting

New members: No new club members in attendance

Visitors: Lonnie & Robin Clabaugh

Happy Birthday wishes to our club members with October birthdays: Linda Sobiecki, Ed Sobiecki, honorary member MaryAnn Gasper.

Treasurer's Report: Sam gave the treasurer's report for November.

Club Social Media:

- **Club website** - No report. Webmaster Joey Garcia was not attendance.
- **Facebook** - No report. We need a volunteer to take care of our Facebook internet site.
- **Instagram** - No report. We need a volunteer to take care of our Instagram internet site.
- **Twitter/X** - We need a volunteer to set up an account.

Ken commented that both our Facebook and Instagram websites are vital for the attraction of new and younger club members and asked for volunteers to help post club information to our Facebook and Instagram sites. We also need a volunteer to establish a Twitter/X account.

Announcements/Prior Club Business or Activities

- Ken provided a medical update on Daemon Garcia.
- Ken reported Bruster's Real Ice Cream, Rancho Cucamonga, sent an email advising they witnessed both of their collection boxes full of toys stolen. The thieves were seen running away with the boxes. Bruster's made a report to the police. They also requested replacement collection boxes which Mike Keller delivered to them. Bruster's is offering free ice cream for replacement toy donations.
- Ken also reported Bruster's Ice Cream, Yorba Linda, is on board to be a 2024 Toy Drive collection location.
- The following completed Fort Irwin Toy Drive collection events were briefly discussed:
 - (Nov. 11) Flabob Airport, Riverside
 - (Nov. 18) MoTech Performance, Murietta - cancelled due to weather
 - (Nov. 18) Legends Burgers Cruise, Rancho Cucamonga
 - (Nov. 19) Riverside Cars and Coffee, Riverside
 - (Nov. 25) Detail Garage, Montclair

Meeting Minutes – December (cont)

Announcements/Prior Club Business or Activities (cont)

- Information was provided for the following planned Fort Irwin Toy Drive events:
 - (Dec. 6) Trailer loading at Sil & Carol Brander's, San Jacinto, 10AM
 - (Dec. 8) Set up for the Toy Drive Christmas party, Don & Ann Long's, Corona, 10AM
 - (Dec. 9) Zimmerman Automobile Driving Museum Cruise In with the Clauses, El Segundo, 10AM-2PM
 - (Dec. 9) Toy Drive party and pot luck dinner, Don & Ann Long's, Corona. Club members attending were asked to arrive no later than 3:30PM and bring a 12-pack of soft drinks in addition to their pot luck dinner item to share. We will also need clean-up help after the party.
 - (Dec. 10) A possible new make-up event at Detail Garage, Montclair, since they did not advertise the November 25 event. Mike Keller will advise if this event is confirmed.
 - (Dec. 16) 3rd annual "Santa's Rockin' Holiday", Apple Valley, 11AM-3PM. Jess Ranch Marketplace, 18805-18901 Bear Valley Road. Approximately 6 miles east of the I-15 freeway.
 - (Dec. 17) Toy Drive delivery to Fort Irwin. Club members planning to participate in either the toy delivery or the scheduled "Christmas in January" toy distribution (Jan. 6) were advised they need to provide a copy of their California Driver License to Mike Keller no later than December 5 for the toy delivery or December 22 for the toy distribution in January.
- 2024 Club Officer Nominations and Elections
 - The following club members were nominated and unanimously elected as a club officer for 2024:
 - Sergeant At Arms: Bill Whitson, nominated by Mike Keller, second by Carol Brander
 - Newsletter Editor: Mike Keller, nominated by Sil Brander, second by Carol Brander
 - Secretary: David Castagno, volunteer, second by Bill Heckman
 - Treasurer: Sam Frisby, nominated by Bill Whitson, second by Norma Johnston
 - Vice-President: Norma Johnston, nominated by Carol Brander, second by Bill Heckman
 - President: Ken Hamer, nominated by Jim Froelich, second by David Castagno

Future 'car stuff' Announcements

- Ken reported that Chris Thompson sent a text advising he will be racing his 1968 Dart at the "MRM Grudgefest" at Irwindale Speedway scheduled for December 8-9. This event includes the rescheduled "Mopars vs. The World" drag racing, car show, and swap events. Daily event times and ticket prices were provided.
- The Hot Rod Power Tour West was detailed. Event will be held December 15-17 with racing on successive days starting at Irwindale Speedway (Dec. 15), The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway (Dec. 16), and In-N-Out Burger Pomona Dragstrip (Dec. 17). Ticket prices were mentioned.

Annual Club Activities Update

- 2024 "Wreaths Across America", Dec. 16, Riverside National Cemetery. Ken reported that wreaths have been purchased and will be picked up at RNC on Dec. 16. He requested club

Meeting Minutes – December (cont)

Annual Club Activities Update (cont)

member help for distribution of the wreaths on club member family gravesites. We will meet in the parking lot of the administration building at 8AM.

- 2024 Grand National Roadster Show, Jan. 30-Feb. 4, Fairplex, Pomona. A club member volunteer workshift schedule was passed around for signup. Club members working the show will receive free entrance and parking for the days they work. Ken advised he will send out an email so club members not in attendance at the December club meeting can sign up for any remaining work shifts. Our club display will feature the following cars: Bill Heckman's 1966 Dodge Coronet, Steve & Jennifer Ruiz' 1969 Dodge Dart, and Bill and Debbie Whitson's 1964 Plymouth Fury.
- 2024 "Mopars in May" car show, May 19, Ontario. Car Show Chairman Gene Endo advised he has not heard any further information from Elite Mopars regarding a date to meet to discuss responsibilities of each club. During further discussion, Gene sent a text message and received a reply requesting a meeting during January since December is so busy because of the holidays. Mike Keller suggested we hold an Inland Mopars car show meeting prior to the combined club car show planning meeting to set the items for discussion. Mike Keller volunteered his home for the Inland Mopars car show meeting to be held 10AM on Saturday, December 30. Mike will send out an email reminder.

Round Table discussion

No notes were taken regarding discussions during the Round Table

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Hamer (temporarily filling in as Recording Secretary)

Remember last month the info about the two toy drive donation boxes at Bruster's Real Ice Cream in Rancho Cucamonga? Well, it seems that someone wanted those boxes more than we did as they were seen running off across the parking lot. A police report was filed and the boxes were replaced. The toys were not. Bruster's does not have inside dining so the boxes are placed outside during their hours of operation. *Still delicious ice cream.*



One of the toy drive donation box locations



10570 Foothill Blvd, Ste 100,
Rancho Cucamonga, CA91730
(909) 481-7575

Climate Control Solution submitted by Jim Froelich
from the Feb 2024 issue of Mopar Action



Editor's Notes

BY CLIFF GROMER

Climate Control Solution



GREEN THIS, GREEN THAT. Who wouldn't want to live in a world with air as pure as it seems in a Disney Bambi cartoon. But alas, we have to deal with reality. So many sources of pollution and global warming. Yet all the climate control regs and restrictions on life on this planet are as ineffective as a drop in the ocean when dealing with natural disasters such as major volcano eruptions and asteroid hits. Then what about all the explosions in the wars currently playing out that provide good YouTube clickbait? We need regs for ordinance that kills combatants but does not foul the air while doing so. You don't think the pollutants from all the guns, military and civilian, being fired don't add up? So what's the answer? Who do the government braintrusts come after to solve this immense worldly problem? Cars! Your Mopar! Your mother's Mopar!

Yup, case in point is a report from the *Daily Caller* that revealed that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) sent out a survey about how 1978 and earlier vehicles are primarily driven. This 2019 CARB draft report suggests that the state should provide explicit authority to local jurisdictions to create zero-emission zones in order to combat climate change. The survey also asks respondents to specify how many miles are registered on the odometers of their classic cars and approximate annual

mileage, as well as the frequency and distance travelled of their cruises. You should note that California has the most classic car collectors of any state in the country.

You'll remember that before all the political nonsense that prevails today, the Golden State was the bedrock of motor-dom, hosting many legendary performance and custom product manufacturers and retailers who contributed to eye-tearing numbers on quarter-mile track scoreboards and brain-jarring custom builds at car shows and cruises. It was an era of individual expression and creativity. Too bad cars of that era are now killing our planet today (according to CARB). The fix, obviously, is the "zero emissions zone" plan which would ban your evil, polluting and asphyxiating classic Mope from entering the zone on pain of who knows what.

'Course, CARB still has to work out some details—like how to keep the smoke from wildfires in the next county from blowing into said zone. Fans? And if we're talking zero emissions, shouldn't extend beyond just "old cars?" There's legislation afoot to modify animal feed to reduce intestinal gas emissions from that source. So what about humans? For a true zero emissions zone, you'd need fart sensors and cameras strategically placed around the zero emissions zone to identify and aid in apprehending human emissions offend-

ers to make it effectively zero emissions. So, if you felt the need to cut the cheese, you'd have to hightail it out of the zone and roll your thunder before you could reenter the pristine air zone.

If this trend becomes widespread, it'll mean some adjustment for the Mopar hobby. So, when the day comes that your beloved classic Mopar is legislated off the road, will *Mopar Action* cave and abandon our performance heritage to run a 16-part how-to series in turning your Hemicuda into a lawn ornament? They'll have to pry the pencil out of my cold, dead hand before that happens.

'til next time

Being Green submitted by Kim Strathman

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman, that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were truly recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbings. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

But too bad we didn't do the green thing back then.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smartass young person.

Grand National Roadster Show (GNRS) Again



We will again be working the GNRS as the annual club fund raiser. For those newer members, the GNRS had been held the last weekend in January but changed to the first weekend in February a year ago due to the NFL lengthened season. It is where the America's Most Beautiful Roadster trophy is awarded so there are some high dollar cars there. Don't be confused by the name of the show thinking this is an all-roadster show. The show is open to all kinds of vehicles.

Our role in this show is we work the souvenir booth. A couple of days prior to the show for set up & early sales plus for the three days the show is open. We usually take the show hours each day, add an hour before opening, and then split it in half. It usually ends up being 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 hours. It isn't hard work but it can get crazy busy on Friday & Saturday. If you work the booth, you get free parking as well as entry into the show so plan on viewing the cars either before or after your shift.

We also do an Inland Mopars club display with 3-4 member cars on display inside the secure building for the weekend. This year's display cars belong to Bill & Debbie Whitson, 1964 Plymouth Fury and Bill Heckman, 1966 Dodge Coronet, along with our newest member Steve Ruiz, 1969 Dodge Dart. We have a couple of event flyer racks in the display for Mopar events as well as open show events. An entry form for the Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday Drive-in is available at Rodshows.com, or ask me, in case you want to be part of the weekend show. Sign-up days & work times shown below. Limited to 4 persons per shift. Ken will have the actual sign-up sheet.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 - SET-UP
3:00PM-7:00PM

	Mike Keller	

Thursday, Feb. 1 10:00AM- 2:30-
 2:30PM 7:00PM

Friday, Feb. 2 11:00AM- 3:30-
 3:30PM 8:00PM

Saturday, Feb. 3 9:00AM- 2:30-
 2:30PM 8:00PM

Sunday, Feb. 4 9:00AM- 2:30-
 2:30PM DONE

Saturday & Sunday outside booth (depends on the weather) is usually handled by Ken H & Bill H. Not sure about Friday outside booth at this time.

In-N-Out Burger 75th Anniversary Festival Part 3

Bill & Debbie Whitson's son-in-law, Jerry Shory, wandered around the October 22nd car show with his phone taking lots of photos. There were some of his in the Scat Pack News November & December issues. This issue, a sampling of the non-Mopars.



In-N-Out Burger Part 3 (cont)



In-N-Out Burger Part 3 (cont)



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In-N-Out Burger Part 3 (cont)

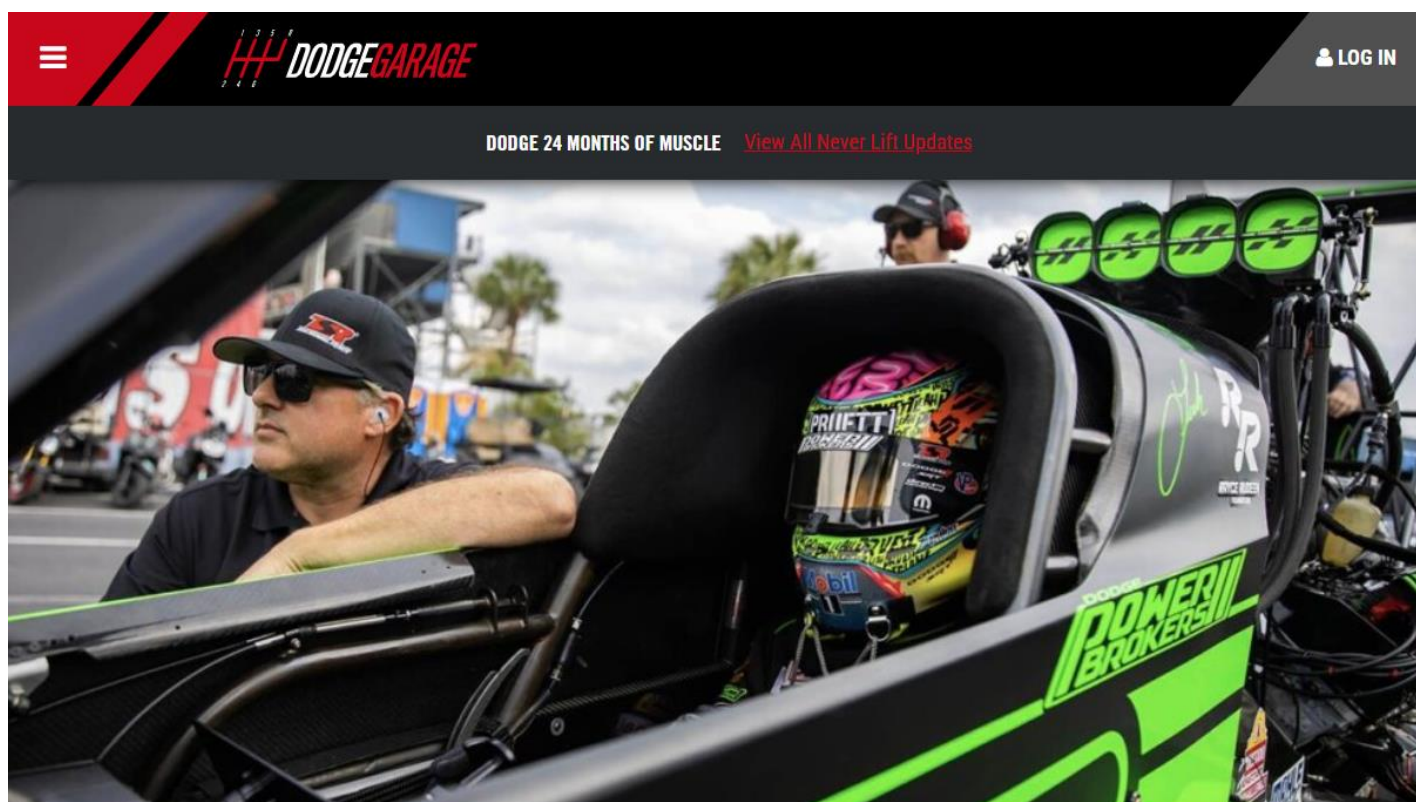


In-N-Out Burger Part 3 (cont)



Dodge/SRT Top Fuel Dragster News

From the DodgeGarage online magazine, December 7th Issue



LEAH PRUETT STEPS AWAY FROM NHRA COMPETITION TO FOCUS ON FAMILY, HALL OF FAME RACER TONY STEWART TO DRIVE DODGE//SRT[®] DIRECT CONNECTION NHRA TOP FUEL DRAGSTER IN 2024

By [DodgeGarage](#) © 12/7/2023 9:15 AM [Racing](#) 4 min read

[DRAG RACING](#) [NHRA](#) [TONY STEWART RACING](#)

The motorsports duo of Leah Pruett and Tony Stewart made major news today regarding their respective racing careers, with Pruett announcing she will temporarily step away from driving duties in the 2024 NHRA Mission Foods Pro Drag Racing Series to focus on starting a family with husband Stewart, who will race the full season in her place in the Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) team's 11,000-horsepower Dodge//SRT[®] Direct Connection Top Fuel dragster.

Just one round win away from earning the coveted NHRA Top Fuel World Championship last month at the season-ending NHRA Finals in Pomona, California, Pruett enjoyed her greatest Top Fuel season in 2023 with two wins and a third-place finish in the final Top Fuel points standings, proving her TSR Dodge//SRT Direct Connection dragster was a top contender against the highly competitive Top Fuel field. Pruett, a fan favorite who has driven almost her entire NHRA pro career under the Dodge and Mopar[®] banner, will continue as a Dodge Direct Connection and Mopar brand ambassador during the 2024 season.

Motorsports legend Stewart, a series champion in NASCAR, IndyCar and in USAC, takes over the controls of the team's Top Fuel machine in 2024 with another championship in his sights. Stewart will make his 2024 Top Fuel driving debut at the season-opening NHRA Gatornationals, March 7-10.

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Dodge/SRT Top Fuel Dragster News (cont)

“We are thrilled to welcome Hall of Fame racer Tony Stewart as the new full-time driver of the Dodge//SRT Direct Connection Top Fuel dragster for the upcoming 2024 NHRA Mission Foods Pro Drag Racing Series,” said Tim Kuniskis, Dodge brand chief executive officer – Stellantis. “With her decision to temporarily step back from a full-time racing career, we also recognize all Leah Pruett has accomplished in her many years competing and winning under the Dodge and Mopar banners. We’re extremely excited that Leah will continue next year as an at-track ambassador for our brands. Tony is a motorsports legend, and along with 2023 NHRA Funny Car champion Matt Hagan, we know the Tony Stewart Racing team will continue to demonstrate that Direct Connection parts are championship-proven examples of premier performance on the track and on the street.”

With her desire to focus on starting a family with Stewart, and after consultation with TSR team owner Stewart, crew chief Neal Strausbaugh and car chief Mike Domagala, Pruett, with a 27-year drag-racing career, made the decision to step away and hand the reigns of the Top Fuel dragster to her husband.

“This decision did not happen overnight, and I feel that stepping out of the seat right now is what’s best for myself and Tony to start a family,” said Pruett, a 12-time NHRA Top Fuel national event winner. “This has been one of the most difficult decisions to make because of what we have collectively created at TSR, a highly successful program and enjoyable operation. I’m excited about how competitive this team is, and to be able to have Tony compete in a very safe, vetted, well-performing car with an established team.”

It was Pruett’s decision to step away from driving at this time but the veteran racer will be actively involved in the TSR organization and team strategies.

“I am very proud of my wife,” said Stewart. “To make a decision like this must be extremely hard. We had discussed starting a family and this was her decision. I was very supportive as to whether she wanted to do it now or years from now. I’m very humbled that Leah and Neal felt I was the driver to fill in for her. I feel honored that I can do that for my wife and this team.”

Stewart’s drag-racing career began in 2022 with a close loss in his debut in the Top Alcohol Dragster category in Las Vegas, but the Indiana driver returned for a full season this year and placed second in the NHRA national points, including wins at Las Vegas and Reading.

“I enjoyed my time in the Top Alcohol Dragster class,” explained Stewart. “I absolutely loved racing with the McPhillips Racing family. But to have an opportunity like this, where you have your wife, who’s also a driver, and the crew chief feel I’m capable to come in and drive the car is very flattering. It’s an honor to be able to fill in for her until she’s ready to come back.”

Stewart’s teammate will be reigning Funny Car World Champion Matt Hagan, who scored his fourth title last month at the NHRA Finals in the TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Hellcat. Hagan believes his team owner will be an excellent addition.

“It’s a great move for Leah, who wanted to start a family,” said Hagan. “I’m so happy for the two of them. It was challenging for Leah to step out of the seat. It’s a personal and private situation for Leah and Tony and I respect that. And she can come back when she wants as well. And for Tony, he’s a natural and a champion in whatever he has driven. He’s a great team owner as well, and has driven Leah’s car and my car in testing. He was outstanding in both of them. I believe Tony will be a contender this year.”

Stewart will start his NHRA Top Fuel career in the TSR Dodge//SRT Direct Connection dragster in the season-opening NHRA Gatornationals on March 7-10 at Gainesville, Florida, while Pruett is expected to drive in the PRO Superstar Shootout on Feb. 8-10 in Bradenton, Florida.



MoparMall-Murrieta

With Mopars & Friends at MoTech Performance being cancelled due to weather, Marc Bigenho at MoparMall.com stepped up and held a replacement event at his place of business on Saturday December 2nd. MoparMall is a couple of rows over from MoTech Performance in the same business park so no one had to travel that much further than if they were going to MoTech. Marc sells Mopar parts and books. He also has classic boats and outboard motors and parts for sale, as well as a few travel trailers.

We didn't have to worry about rain this time. The sun was out. We had almost 20 vehicles come and go with 21 bodies actually signed in. Marc supplied pizza and drinks. We gave away some stuff. We picked our three favorite cars, which were: Lynn Hart, 1965 Dodge Coronet, Vintage Mopar; Manny Andrade, 2019 Dodge Challenger, Modern Mopar; and Ron Whittaker, 1996 Buick Roadmaster, Non-Mopar. And we collected toys for the military kids at Fort Irwin National Training Center, somewhat near Barstow.



Ken Hamer, Debbie & Bill Whitson in the toy booth



Manny Andrade's 2019 Dodge Challenger



Left: Lynn Hart's 1965 Dodge Coronet; right: Ron Whittaker's 1996 Buick Roadmaster



Even project cars for sale showed up

MoparMall-Murrieta (cont)



Above: A couple of Marc's Mopars on display.
Below: Marc's 1948 Chrysler Town & Country and his teardrop trailer.



MoparMall-Murrieta (cont)



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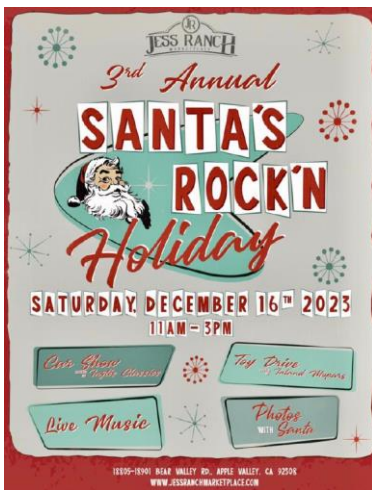
Zimmerman Automobile Driving Museum

Saturday December 9th, somehow, I managed to get out of the house without the camera, so no photos from me. I did not bother to pull out the flip phone since the last time I tried I couldn't download. But I did have a friend stop by to bring me brownies and I used her camera to take her photo with the Grinch in front of the toy drive booth.

Anyway, when I got to the museum NetCruze.com was already set up and just about ready to go. Seems no one told me they were also doing a toy drive & distribution right next to where I was going to be collecting toys for the military kids at Fort Irwin. I ended up collecting about a third of what I had done in the past. I did make up for it when I went inside to pick up the toy donation box. What was in the box and what had been moved to another room for storing almost made up the difference of what I had collected in the past. Overall, it was a good day.



Santa's Rock'n Holiday



Here it was, the seventh Saturday in a row doing a toy drive event. The Santa's Rock'n Holiday in Apple Valley would be the last event before toy delivery to Fort Irwin. This was the third year for this show and it has grown every year. The nice thing about it is it is held in the parking lot of a shopping center. They had photos with Santa, a magician, face painting, a bouncer of some sort, and a rock'n band. Other than enjoying the music, I did not go to see Santa, try to disappear with magician, bounce, or have my face painted.

Tanya Inglis of Inglis Classics has been putting this together and it brings out the community...and lots of cars. And that other guy from down the hill; Larry the Toy Man, who donated a bunch of toys for the toy drive. The community comes out to enjoy the whole thing. Inland Mopars sponsored a couple of trophies for the car show. We collected a couple of bikes and lots of toys. These were in addition to what Inglis Classics had collected in the toy donation box they had at their shop. We will do it again next year.



Santa's Rock'n Holiday (cont)



Fort Irwin Toy Drive & Pot Luck

The night of Saturday December 9th was the Fort Irwin Toy Drive & Pot Luck to be held at the Longs place. I was stuck on the 91 Fwy, on my way back from the Automobile Driving Museum, when the party started so don't know what took place prior to my arrival. I heard people were upset the toys were being boxed, rather than having them out for viewing. It takes time to box toys and if you waited until the end, you would be there all night. The Longs had already had a long day and didn't need to wait for us to get everything boxed. It was also reported that lots of desserts were brought but not enough entrees and side dishes. Something to think about for the next party.

Fort Irwin Garrison Commander Col. Bomar & his wife, along with Lacey Marshall of MWR, were in attendance for a short while. Col. Bomar presented Inland Mopars with a Certificate of Appreciation for the toy drive. It has Inland Mopars name on it, but it really belongs to the whole car community. We would not be able to supply the amount of toys needed at Fort Irwin by ourselves. Thank you all who attended.

No party photos at this time.



Fort Irwin Toy Drive

Our usual process is we collect toys at events, get them boxed, and then take them to storage until trailer loading time, which is a couple of days before the big party, so the trailer could be delivered to the Longs for placement. I had been collecting toy donation boxes that same week and it would get pretty hectic. This year I moved the picking up of the donation boxes to the week after the party. Still pretty hectic. Ken Hamer, Bill & Debbie Whitson, Jim Froelich, and I got everything out of storage and into the trailer right on time & the trailer was delivered.



From the left: Ken Hamer, Debbie & Bill Whitson, Jim Froelich

The last few years, Hilton Vail and friends from El Cajon have been supplying us with bikes. Hilton has stepped out of the lead this year and the group has gone back to working with the La Mesa VFW now that Covid is a thing of the past. Hilton wasn't sure how many, if any, bikes we might get this year. Well, I found out at the party. Hilton and friends brought up ten bikes in boxes plus toys. They still had twenty-one bikes in boxes so Monday it was rent a trailer & drive to La Mesa where bikes & loading help were waiting. A couple hours later I was home and unloading bikes into my garage.

Over the next few days, it was collecting toy donation boxes and delivering appreciation plaques. A sampling of toy donation box results is shown below. Norma had been shopping and her living room was filled with bags & boxes. We got all that boxed and added to my garage stash. That took care of Thursday morning. Twenty-one bikes, twenty-two 20x16x14 boxes and three 18x18x30 boxes, which didn't leave much room to move. Friday morning it was off to the Longs to pick up the trailer. Got it home & proceeded to load everything out of my garage in preparation for going to Apple Valley the next day, then Fort Irwin on Sunday.



Trailer filled with bikes in boxes



Garage filled with bikes in boxes



Minor Auto Care (MAC) in Fullerton has been holding a Wednesday night car cruise in Placentia for a few years. This is the back of my car filled from two plus donation boxes.



Donations from the Curtis Speed box in Orange

Fort Irwin Toy Drive (cont)



Results of the Cambra Speed Shop box in Orange



R&R Automotive in Rancho Cucamonga box



Garage emptied out and into the trailer. Still would have to add toys from Apple Valley.



Our Fort Irwin trailer unloading crew. Former Mrs. Claus & Santa (4th & 5th from right) joined us this year.

Continued on Page 25

Fort Irwin Toy Drive (cont)

If you want to see the results from the past toy drives, you should look at www.inlandmopars.org/toydrives.

2023
Toy Drive
Event
Schedule:



























- May 21 - Mopars in May, Inland Mopars, Ontario (happened)
- June 25 - Cambra Speed Shop Good Times Block Party, Orange (happened)
- July 1-15 - Bruster's Real Ice Cream Christmas in July, Rancho Cucamonga (happened)
- September 30 - Champion Cooling Systems, Lake Elsinore (happened)
- October 21 - Legends Burgers Cruise, Rancho Cucamonga (happened)
- October 22 - In-N-Out 75th Anniversary Festival, Pomona (happened)
- November 4 - Ramona Tire, Rancho Cucamonga (happened)
- November 11 - Flabob Airport Veterans Celebration Parade, Festival, & Vintage Car Show, Jurupa Valley (happened)
- November 18 - Legends Burgers Cruise, Rancho Cucamonga (happened)
- November 18 - Mopars at MoTech Performance, Murrieta (canceled due to weather)
- November 19 - Riverside Cars & Coffee, Riverside Auto Center (happened)
- November 25 - Detail Garage, Montclair (happened)
- December 2 - MoparMall, Murrieta (happened)
- December 9 - The Zimmerman Automobile Driving Museum, El Segundo (happened)
- December 9 - Toy Drive & Pot Luck at the Longs (happened)
- December 16 - Inglis Classics Holiday Car Show & Toy Drive, Apple Valley (happened)
- December 17 - Toy Delivery to Fort Irwin (happened)
- January 6 - Christmas in January toy distribution at Fort Irwin



Continued on Page 26

Fort Irwin Toy Drive (cont)

Please support the businesses below that were supporting the Fort Irwin toy drive with a toy donation box on their premises.

	3D Detailing Products of Montclair	4702 Holt Blvd, Montclair, CA 91763 (909) 624-5550 3dchemicalequipment.com/3dmontclair		Legends Burgers-Rancho Cucamonga	8775 Baseline Rd, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 727-8220 thelegendsburgers.com
	Advance Auto Parts-Rancho Cucamonga	9292 Foothill Blvd, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 244-1064 stores.advanceautoparts.com/ca/rancho-cucamonga		Legends Burgers-Upland	1645 N. Mountain Ave, Upland, CA 91784 (909) 920-5800 thelegendsburgers.com
	Audio Shoppe	6760 Central Ave Unit A, Riverside, CA 92504 (951) 687-0550 audioshoppe.com		MAC Speed and Custom	500 S Raymond Ave Suite B, Fullerton, CA 92831 (714) 580-7848 macspeedandcustom.com
	Big Wednesdays Car Show	2001 E. Orangethorpe Ave, Placentia, CA 92670 (714) 580-7848 macspeedandcustom.com		Modern Auto Service	2350 W. Main St, Alhambra, CA 91801 (626) 281-4772
	Bruster's Real Ice Cream	10570 Foothill Blvd, Ste 100, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 481-7575 brusters.com		MoparMall.com	41745 Elm Street Suite 103, Murrieta, CA 92682 (951) 461-9005 moparmall.com
	Cambra Speed Shop	726 W Angus Ave, Orange, CA 92868 (714) 538-5396 cambraspeedshop.com		MoTech Performance	41715 Elm St #301, Murrieta, CA 92562 (951) 813-3550 motechperformance.com
	Champion Cooling Systems	Box located at Overdriven Performance 41725 Elm St #201, Murrieta, CA 92562 (951) 757-4441		New Image Salon	1481 Foothill Blvd, La Verne, CA 91750 (909) 596-8292
	Curtis Speed Equipment	504 W Chapman Ave, Unit P, Orange, CA 92868 (714) 538-8752 mikecurtisdesign.com		Overdriven Performance	41725 Elm St #201, Murrieta, CA 92562 (951) 757-4441
	Detail Garage-Montclair	5108 Holt Blvd, Montclair, CA 91763 (909) 626-0103 detailgarage.com		R&R Automotive	8800 Onyx Ave A, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 980-6308 M-F 8-5 randrautomotiverancho.com
	Duke's Cafe	Closed		Ramona Tire & Service Center - Rancho Cucamonga	11836 Foothill Blvd, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 944-9394 ramonatire.com/locations/rancho-cucamonga-ca
	Flabob Airport	4130 Mennes Ave #24, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509 (951) 683-2309 flabobairport.org		The Zimmerman Automobile Driving Museum	610 Lairport St, El Segundo, CA 90245 (310) 909-0950 theadm.org
	Inglis Classics	17229 Lemon St Suite A-2, Hesperia, CA 92345 (281) 601-2713 inglisclassics.com			

Misc



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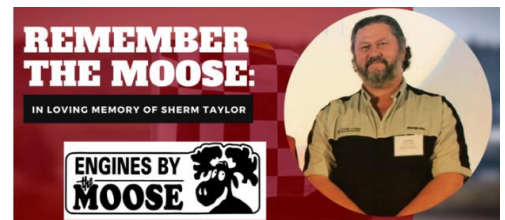
Sherm Taylor Scholarship Endowment

Some of you will remember Sherm Taylor as the big guy at the Chaffey College Car Show. He was an automotive instructor and ended up wearing many different hats at Chaffey. Last year he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and had started treatment. He passed away in March. Sherm had a 440 engine he was selling before his passing. It has been sold to Lonnie Clabaugh for use in the new 1968 Dodge Charger project. Sherm's sister decided to leave it to Chaffey College after his passing so Chaffey will be using the funds raised towards the scholarship endowment under his name. If you haven't heard about the endowment in his name yet, you can make a donation either on-line or checks can be made out to the Chaffey College Foundation & mailed to the address below:

On-line at <https://chaffey.kindful.com/?campaign=1118679>

Snail mail to Chaffey College Foundation
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Please note Sherm Taylor scholarship in the memo section.



Misc (cont)

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Misc (cont)



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Misc (cont)



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Nuts & Bolts

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Please contact me with any changes, additions or deletions. Phone & e-mail are on Page 1.

Free

- Duster, Dart, Demon bench seat, orange/black houndstooth. Needs to be redone.
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For Sale - California

The following parts were donated to the club by Scott Whiteman. All new, in original boxes, never used. He won't be needing them. Proceeds from the sale of these parts will go to the toy drive. I have them.

- Fram Racing Fuel Filter P/N HPG1, Summit price \$55.99, make offer
- Mallory Promaster Coil P/N 29440, Summit price \$159.99, make offer
- Mallory HyFire 6 Electronic Ignition P/N 6853M, Summit price, \$215.99, make offer
Contact Mike Keller at 951-212-0817 or email limedust70@gmail.com

- 1 big block 727 trans, needs rebuild. \$100
- 1963 Dodge 2dr hardtop bench seat. Free

Contact Ken 909-336-9974 or strathman@charter.net . No shipping, must pick up.

- Pair of 1972 Dodge Charger bucket seats. \$800.00.
- Set of four small bolt pattern rallye wheels, center caps, lugs, trim rings, & 215/60R14 BF Goodrich tires. \$1600.00

Call or text Steve Ruiz 310-508-1327



Nuts & Bolts (cont) **For Sale - California**

- 1973 Dodge Dart Sport. Slant six, no other details. Located in Jurupa Valley. Asking \$3900

Contact Oscar Zendejas Sr at 909-437-0246 or email longshotz@gmail.com

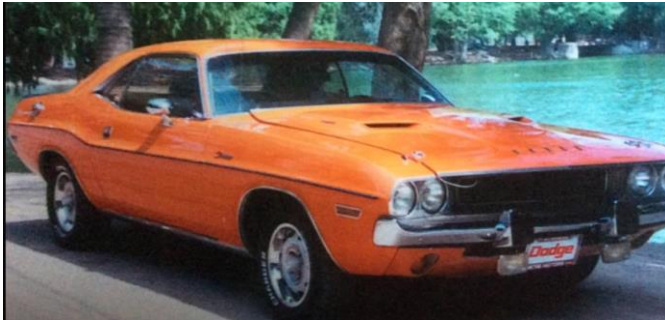


Nuts & Bolts (cont)

For Sale - California

- 1970 Dodge Challenger. Slant six, auto, original owner. Make offer

Contact Al Lavoie at 951-351-9100 or email albert.lavoie1970@aol.com



- 1972 Dodge Dart passenger door & two front fenders. Make offer

Contact Bill Clark at 626-281-4772 or email bill67hemi@aol.com

- Mopars in May 2023 Event Shirts. Available in white, ash (light grey), and tan.



Size	Ash	White	Tan
Small	1	0	0
Medium	0	0	0
Large	7	10	1
XL	0	0	1
2X	4	16	1
3X	0	1	0
4X	1	3	0

\$20 each plus shipping/postage

Contact Mike Keller at 951-212-0817 or email limedust70@gmail.com