



Indy Mopar Club News

December 2009

www.indymoparclub.com

Jan Peel Editor

Tom Kelly, President

Ronda Cherry, Vice President

Mike Leyes, Treasurer

Jessica McCormick, Secretary

Meetings are the last Thursday of every month except November & December
Next regular meeting: Thursday January 28, 2010 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.



Member Profile of the Month



Rick Kelly and his '64 340 Duster



Kelly family cars late '70's

I'm Rick Kelly, the youngest of four brothers in the Club.

I've been married to my wife, Joy, for 24 years. My stepson, Marc, is 33, and our two children are Patrick, 19, and Amanda, who is 18. Joy and I are in our early 50s.

My three older brothers, Tom, Dan and Jim, were bitten by the Mopar bug from very early on in their lives. As for me, I went in a different direction initially, opting for music. They worked on their cars, and I worked on music, teaching myself to play first a six-string guitar and later, a bass guitar. I always enjoyed music, especially the Beatles and Stones, and later, artists like Tom Petty and Stone Temple Pilots.

I've been fascinated by Mopars since I was very young. One of my first memories regarding the topic occurred in either '67 or '68. My oldest brother, Tom (Bee), was probably about 13 or 14 and had a friend over for the weekend. Certainly, neither of them had a drivers license. His friend's mother was my fourth grade teacher, a very kind, yet conservative woman who believed her son, Dickie, was quite an innocent angel. At the time, our parents rented a farm, which at that included a nine-acre field overgrown in weeds that reached about

eight feet tall. My dad, at that time a huge Richard Petty fan, bolstered himself with a few Fall City beers and decided to create a track around the field. He then turned over his 'racecar', a '64 Plymouth Fury 4 dr Sedan, to the boys to have a go at it. It wasn't long before the soft-spoken Mrs. Evans came to collect Dickie. My first thought was, "Oh, Boy! Wait'll she gets a load of this!" She saw Dad and the rest of us gazing at the field and said, "I'm here to pick up Dickie". Just then, we could hear a thunder coming through the weeds in the field, and the car appeared, flying right by us on its course, passing us by like a freight train would a hobo! At that point, Dad simply announced to her, "There goes your boy now!". The look on her face was...priceless! That will always remain a much-loved childhood memory!

In my family, it simply was not acceptable to own any sort of vehicle but a Mopar. So even though I chose music as my passion, I still purchased only family-approved vehicles. My first car was a '69 383 Dodge Dart 6TS. My second was a '71 Plymouth Cricket (comparable to a Dodge Colt). I owned the Cricket in 1975, during the time of a notable gas shortage, when the cost of gasoline reached a then-unbelievable price of \$1.38/gallon. At that time, Dan and some of his buddies, including his friend, Bill, asked to use the car to save money on fuel to vacation in Florida. It was a small car and they were discussing what to take and not to take. Several items were discussed, and over and over the question came up, "Will this fit in Ricky's Cricket?" "Will THIS fit in Ricky's Cricket?" Finally, Bill's sister couldn't take it anymore. "What in the HELL is a 'Ricky's Cricket'???"

Next in my lineup was a bright yellow 1973 "340 Dart Sport". Funny, but it was years later when discussing that particular car with Tom, he convinced me it was actually a Duster! Clearly, I simply didn't have the knowledge that my brothers did regarding vehicles!

With Dan's help, at the age of 21, I was able to land a great job at Allison Gas Turbine. This was the time I decided to really splurge, and without even getting in my 90-day trial period, I signed on the dotted line to purchase a 1979 Chrysler Lebaron- a beautiful, sleek black 2-door, fully loaded and complete with leather interior and sun roof. What a beauty! And boy, did I catch a lot of heat from my co-workers for buying something other than a GM Product! In the ensuing years, I've learned to purchase from the company which 'butters my bread', by purchasing GM Trucks. If I were not employed there, you can bet there'd be a big 4x4 Ram proudly showcased in my driveway!

As for when I became a part of the club, it all happened innocently enough in 1999. I attended the Mopar Nationals with my older brothers that year. At one point, after walking around enjoying the sights in the hot sun, my brother Jim, and I sat in the shade and just started chatting. He 'innocently' asked me, "I know you probably wouldn't want a 'project' car, but *if* you could, what would it be?" Immediately I stated that there would be no way I could afford one, nor did I have the room or tools or know-how to start such a task. He pressed on, "I know, but *if* you could, what would it be?" I dared to dream, since it was a rhetorical question, and finally admitted that I'd like to have a '64 Plymouth like Dad used to have. By Christmas that year, just a few months after this conversation, Jim called me up and triumphantly announced, "We found *your car!*" I immediately started to panic and started protesting, giving the same reasons I'd given him during the summer. But this time I was met by the army that is my three older brothers, who all joined in the assault! They gleefully said the magical words, "We'll all help you!" And so it was that I reluctantly traveled with Tom and Jim to Lebanon and looked at my '64 Plymouth, from a guy who'd purchased it to rebuild, but later abandoned the project to begin a different one. I was pretty intimidated by the sight of it, but Tom and Jim encouraged me with words like, "Oh, it'll be a piece of cake!" Easy for them to say!

At this point, I went begging on my knees to my lovely wife, who let me use the proceeds from our tax check to purchase my jewel and to begin work on the restoration. My brothers were true to their word and helped me with most of the bodywork, but it was a very slow process. At Tom's urging and once again, the assistance from my understanding wife, I sped up the process by letting Tim Merefield finish that part of the project. Tom helped me tear it all apart and label every piece. Once that was completed, he helped me take the

original 383-4BBL out and instructed me to take it to Brownsburg NAPA for engine and block work. I continued to look at the mechanic blankly when he asked me questions, and continually had to excuse myself to call Tom to get the answers he was looking for. Finally, the mechanic just smiled and said, "I see...you don't work on 'em, you just drive 'em".

It was a long labor of love, but it brought so much to me personally: an appreciation for starting and finishing a major project, and mostly a deep appreciation and respect for what my brothers have been doing for so many years. I could never thank them for all the help and support they've given me.

I just have one question for Jim: when are you going to pose an innocent question to our little brother, Jay. "I know you probably wouldn't want a project car, but *if you did...*"?
Author -- Rick Kelly (Pictures provided by Tom Kelly)



Indy Mopar Members' News

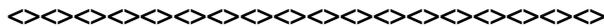
Thank You

On behalf of the Kelly & Duncan family, we'd like to express our thanks for your thoughts and prayers for our sister Donna who passed away on December 4, 2009. We appreciate the beautiful flower arrangement sent by the Indy Mopar Club and special thanks to those who spent their afternoon with our family at Donna's memorial service.

Warmest Regards,

Gina, John, Rick, Jim, Dan and Tom Kelly and Donna's sons Cory and Jared Duncan.

Susan Eilert was at the November 19th meeting, looking well and thanked all the members for the cards and well wishes. Debbie Cummings dropped in and reported that Terry wasn't feeling well that evening but that they would see us at the Christmas Party.



Indy Mopar Club Monthly Meeting

Secretary's Report

November 19, 2009, 7:00 pm

Welcome and sign-in: Steve Wisdom, President

Steve brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked all members and guests to introduce themselves and tell about their car(s). 37 members and 1 guests attended.

Attendees were: John & Carol Ann Bauer, Brian Berkowitz, Bill Bratton, Ronda & Dennis Cherry, Mel Crane, Dick & Dorinda Crawmer, Rick & Susan Eilert, John Heeringa, Tom & Teresa Kelly, Larry & Susan Mayes, Jay Mays, Gary & Jessica McCormick, Bud & Debbie Mounce, Jim Parker & Chris Usher, Jan Peel, Bob & Karen Rosenberger, David Sanders, Bob Schonegg, Ken & Sharon Scobel, Bob Thomas, Mike & Vicki Wallace, Dave Watt, Steve Wisdom, Rick & Ginger Zimmerman, and guest Catie Wallace.

Secretary's Report: Karen Rosenberger

Karen gave the highlights of the October, 2009 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Leyes unable to attend / Steve Wisdom gave report

\$5,180 was donated to JDRF for the year

Beginning balance: \$6,950.06

November income was \$46.00

November expenses were \$4,086.65

Ending balance is \$2,909.41

Currently 85 club members

Event Calendar: Bob Rosenberger
Suds will be open / weather permitting

Event Advertising: Pat & Pat McKarski (unable to attend)

Communications Report: Dave Watt
Updated website and posted some photos

Old Business: Steve Wisdom

- A. Member Profiles for Newsletter and Website
 - 1. December - Rick Kelly
 - 2. January - Brian Berkowitz

- B. Officer Nominations
 - Each nominee was introduced and told a little about themselves
 - Bob Rosenberger withdrew name from nomination

- C. Christmas Party
 - 49 people have RSVP'd

New Business: Steve Wisdom

- A. Car Shows 2010
 - Adesa show will be May 22nd
 - ✓ They have a cafeteria and will have it open / food supplied by them
 - ✓ Possibly have John Andretti and another driver available for autographs
 - ✓ Marsh may have antique cars on display
 - ✓ Possibly have automakers display new cars
 - ✓ JDRF will have a tent/booth
 - ✓ Possibly have an auction
 - ✓ Drag race simulator
 - Champion
 - ✓ Date not yet set
 - ✓ Will be an evening show
 - ✓ Gary McCormick will get additional details

- D. Club Shirts
 - Voted on color for club shirts for 2010 / majority voted for Hemi Orange

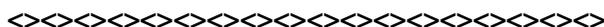
- E. Officer Voting
 - President: Tom Kelly
 - Vice President: Ronda Cherry
 - Secretary: Jessica McCormick
 - Treasurer: Mike Leyes
 - Communications: Dave Watt (Brian Berkowitz will help Dave with emails)

- F. Insurance: tabled until next meeting

- G. 50/50 Drawing: \$104 / Gary McCormick won \$52

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Rosenberger, Secretary





Member Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays:

Ric LaFollette, 1-4
Nancy Watt, 1-8
Sheilla Collins, 1-11
Bob Vorpe, 1-17
Bob Gallup, 1-20
Patrick McKarski, 1-22
Tom Wallace, 1-24

Renee Neukam, 1-5
Bill Likens, 1-9
Larry Dilk, 1-11
Butch Gillock, 1-19
Stephen Graham, 1-21
Curt Huff, 1-24
Bill Edgerton, 1-26

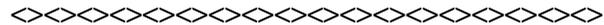
January Anniversaries:

Tim and Sue Stultz, 1-22
Butch and Diane Gillock, 1-24



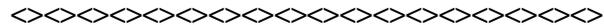
Parts for Sale

Mopar parts for sale: A, B and C body axle/housings, Slant six parts-(almost anything ya need). Slant six 4 spd bell housing and O/D trans. 66/67 B body SS trim and wiring harnesses, frt bumper brackets, factory AM/FM radio, rear and side glass. 67-69 Cuda bumper cores/ brackets and frt plate bracket. Stock Iron 4 bbl intakes. New A body super stock rear springs, 70-73 A body rear bumper brackets. E body frt bucket seat brackets (not rusted). Many new (not remanufactured) stock electronic and points distributors --- lots of stuff. (317) 753-8385 – Brownsburg IN 46112



A personal note from Jan Peel

2009 has found many of our members losing a loved one. It makes it difficult on the holidays to realize that they won't be with us anymore. If you think about all the GOOD times you had with them it makes it easier to accept. If you feel like talking about them, do so. If you feel like crying or shouting, do so. If you need someone to talk to that will understand those feelings, call me. I don't have any advice to give anyone but I can be a good listener. If you need a hug – here is one for you – Ooh Aah!!!! (The Ooh is a big heartfelt hug and the Aah is the warm fuzzy feeling it gives you.)



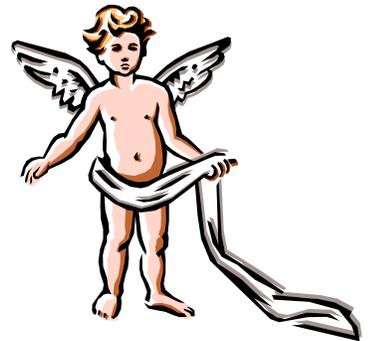
Reminder from your Editor Jan Peel

Remember to send in your dues for 2010 to be included in all the upcoming events.

I would appreciate any news about our members that have attended other events and/or have had their cars or stories in other publications. This is your newsletter, help me make it an even better one by sharing this kind of information so it can be published here. You can contact me by E-mail Jpeel83719@aol.com or call me at 317-357-5760 or send it to me by mail: Jan Peel, 5128 E Rowney St, Indianapolis IN 46203-3741. (Complaints may also be handled this way. Be gentle when you do this please.)



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*



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