



Indy Mopar Club News

www.indymoparclub.com

June 2012



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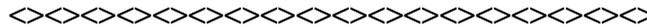
Mike Leyes, Treasurer 765.524.0326

Glenda Wallace, Secretary 317.839.9863

Dave Watt, Communications Director 317.696.6071

Meetings are the last Thursday of every month except November & December.

Next regular meeting: Thursday, June 28, 2012 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.



Why Cars?

By Harry Ewing

I have always loved cars. Every single one has something special to offer. The first one that I wanted to own was a 66 Plymouth Satellite; jet black with black interior and Crager wheels. It was an original Hemi car with a “his and her” shifter. (For those of you who don’t know, a “his and her” shifter can be driven with a clutch or the clutch can be cranked down and driven like a 3 speed automatic.) Though the Hemi was long gone, there was a healthy worked over 383 magnum in its place which ran really well. But this car was sold before I could even get to the bank for the cash. I was only 16 at the time.

I have had Chevys, Fords, Dodges and others, but I kept coming back to Plymouths, especially Satellites. My wife, Lou Ann, has always backed me in these endeavors but I never dreamed my condition was contagious until one day two years ago. She spied a 67 Dodge Dart that she thought was a really cute car. We looked at it and struck a deal.

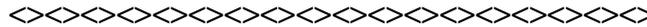
Lou Ann has never been demanding or high maintenance so her car took top priority at that point. Since she has gotten her Dart, strangers stop and look and it and share stories about their Darts and their adventures. It has shown her what this hobby is really about and gives her a better understanding of the world of “gearheads” and Mopars fans.

Isn’t this a great hobby?!

Harry Ewing- 66 Plymouth Satellite

Lou Ann Ewing- 67 Dodge Dart

Author ~~~~~ Harry Ewing



INDY MOPAR CLUB MONTHLY MEETING, MAY 31, 2012

WELCOME AND SIGN-IN: Sign-in was conducted by Jan Peel. Attending were Jeff Andis, Bill Bratton, Ronda Cherry, Dick & Dorinda Crawmer, Harry & Lou Ann Ewing, John Heeringa, Tom Kelly, Ed Leyes, Mike Leyes, Jessica McCormick, Jan Peel, Dave Sanders, Bob Schonegg, Evan & Nicole Springer, Bob Thomas, Mike & Vicki & Catie Wallace, Tom & Glenda Wallace, Dave Watt, and Steve Wisdom. Vice President, Dave Sanders, brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Brian Berkowitz, President, was on vacation. All members and guests were asked to introduce themselves.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Glenda Wallace gave highlights of the April meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Mike Leyes:

Balance as of April 26, 2012, was \$4995.57. **Income** for April, 2012, was \$2087.50. **Expenses** for April, 2012, were \$207.58. **Income** for May, 2012, was \$1853.00, including \$1763.00 from the Fletcher Show. **Expenses** for May, 2012, were \$1622.35. **Balance** as of May 31, 2012, was \$5,226.22.

Membership: There are 74 paid members for 2012.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Dave Watt:

Dave reported that 186 photos were taken by Dave Sanders at the Fletcher Show, and he is currently working on getting some of those pics on the website.

EVENT CALENDER: Dave Sanders circulated a list of car shows and cruises for the month of June. He indicated that the ADESSA car show is June 9th, and it was reported that the Wanamaker Street Fair is June 24th. Mike Wallace reported that the next Madison Avenue cruise on the strip is July 13th.

EVENT ADVERTISING: Bill Bratton:

Bill had nothing new to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Dave Sanders:

A. If anyone is interested in club shirts, see Mike Leyes.

B. The Hot Wheels For Real, held at the Childrens' Museum on May 26th, was a success. Per Jeff Andis, there were 9 cars entered by our club members, and 13 of our members attended. The Hot Wheels For Real will be at the museum until January 27, 2013, and there will be additional shows in July and September.

C. The Fletcher Show was very successful, with 86 registered cars, plus a few non-registered. There was also a blood drive, and several club members donated blood.

NEW BUSINESS: Dave Sanders:

A. As far as the Champion show, there is still no decision.

B. The Westgate cruise-in is September 8th, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

C. Possible cruises were again discussed. Anyone with ideas can E-mail club members.

D. Club Member Profile for Newsletter & Website:

June - Harry Ewing

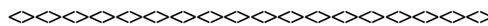
July - Jeff Andis, who will prepare an article on the Hot Wheels show.

August - Jessica McCormick - New Dodge Dart

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted

Glenda Wallace



Members Information

Springer Dodge & Plymouth – Contributed by Scott Oller

During a recent visit to the Circle City Auto Parts store on Main Street in Greenwood, I noticed an old photo of a pre-WWII Plymouth hanging on the wall behind the counter. I asked the man working there about the photo and he said that the building used to be a Dodge and Plymouth dealership. He then pointed out a couple of other old photos showing service technicians who worked at the dealership. “Neat stuff” I thought, this building used to be home to a Dodge and Plymouth dealer in old town Greenwood. I wondered if I could find a bit more about the history of the building and the dealership.



The building at 172 W. Main Street in Greenwood was once a Dodge/Plymouth dealership.

A Google search turned up an article written by Evan Springer, the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation of the City of Greenwood. Finding the article by Evan was convenient since I know him through membership in the Indy Mopar Club. I contacted Evan and asked what he could tell me about this old Dodge and Plymouth dealership.

Evan's grandfather, W.O. Springer was a Greenwood businessman in the early years of the 20th century. One of W.O.'s businesses sold horse drawn farm implements. Out of his interest in machinery, W.O. became interested in selling machine powered agricultural equipment and automobiles. In 1914 W.O. and a business associate Water Grass began selling Maxwell and Ford cars in Greenwood.



Evan Springer, grandson of W.O. Springer

In the early years, the Springer auto dealership sold several different makes including Maxwell, Ford, Overland, Inter-State, Kissell Kar and Studebaker. W.O. Springer built the building located at 172 W. Main Street in 1923. At that time the building was the largest single span building in Johnson County. Evan tells that salesmen would travel to South Bend, pick-up Rockne cars at the Studebaker factory and then drive them back while performing the recommended "break-in" procedure.

Springer Dodge and Plymouth was formed later. Evan does not recall the exact dates when the building was home to Springer Dodge and Plymouth but it must have been from the 1930's until the mid 1950's. Evan's father, Lowell Springer, passed away in 1952. His mother, with help, ran the business for a while. She then leased the business to Kenny Carr who ran his Dodge and Plymouth dealership out of the building. Eventually Tom O'Brien became the regional Dodge and Plymouth dealer in the area. Evan, a self admitted Chrysler nut, mentioned regrets that his family did not keep the dealership since it would most likely be his business now.

Taking a look at the building today one can envision the old dealership. The showroom was located in the front. The large picture windows have been redone from the original configuration. The service garage area was located in the rear of the building and accessed through the overhead doors on the east and north sides of the building. In later years a body shop was added to the northwest corner of the building.

The original building is still standing in its entirety. A row of other buildings once stood on the site of the current day parking lot to the east. The city police and fire station, a blacksmith shop and a lawn and garden store were located there.



Rear of the building shows the body shop extension that was added in later years.



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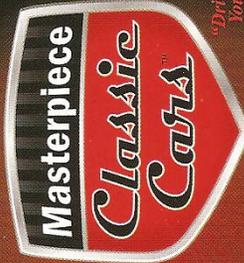
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