



# Indy Mopar Club News

www.indymoparclub.com

November 2013



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**Evan Springer, Vice President 317.416.3727**

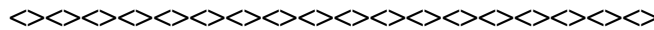
**Mike Leyes, Treasurer 765.524.0326**

**Dave Opel, Secretary 317.850.1834**

**Dave Watt, Communications Director 317.696.6071**

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

**Next regular meeting: Thursday, November 21, 2013** 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).



## **Meet Don Sainsbury - How I Ended Up with My '67 Charger**

How did I end up with my '67 Charger? Short answer: It was my Mom and Dad's car. But there's really a little more to it than that.

According to documents and checks that Mom hung onto, Dad leased the '67 Charger on December 29, 1966. Whenever I tell people this they usually say, "Leased? I didn't know they did leases back then." Well, they did. The car was leased from Varner Ward Leasing in San Francisco. At the time, the family lived in Concord, which was across the bay from San Francisco.

The original sticker price was \$3,968. This price included the \$69.75 upgrade to the 383 2-barrel engine from the standard 318. The lease paperwork says the purchase option price was \$1,418. The monthly lease payments were \$93.08.

At the end of 1966 the Charger became the new family car, but it was basically Dad's car. At that time he was a greeting card salesman and drove all over California to call on clients. This included trips to Sothern California on occasion. On Sundays Dad would drive the family in the Charger to visit Grandma and Grandpa in San Francisco. I remember one Saturday night where Mom and Dad went to the drive-in movies in the Charger, and my sister and I were in sleeping bags in the back where the seats and trunk fold down flat. We were supposed to be sleeping, but we watched some of the movie until we got bored and fell asleep.

Dad wasn't very mechanically inclined. When a car started to give him trouble his philosophy was to just get rid of it and get a new one. Mom had a '58 Ford station wagon, which she loved. Apparently, when the station wagon started having trouble Dad traded it in for a Ford Galaxy. Mom was livid – he never consulted her. Considering this, it's a miracle I ended up with the Charger.

In 1968 Mom and Dad moved to Marin County (still in the SF Bay Area) and opened their own business. At this point the Charger was used to drive to and from their stationary store every day, and to drop my sister and me off at school. The Charger ran pretty good into the mid 70's.



Mom &  
Dad & me  
with the  
Charger in  
1971 at my  
Junior High  
Graduation



Don as of  
10-31-13  
Quite a  
Difference

In '73, when I was still in high school the movie American Graffiti came out. The movie featured hot rods, cruising, drag races, etc. The car cruising scenes were actually filmed on 4<sup>th</sup> street in San Rafael where Mom and Dad's stationary store was. After American Graffiti had become a hit, there were always car curies on 4<sup>th</sup> street in San Rafael. The movie turned 4<sup>th</sup> street into a cruising scene, and that got me thinking about cars and fantasizing about how I might fix up the Charger one day.

I learned to drive in the Charger and so did my sister. This was in 1975 and the Charger was 8 years old by then. At this point the Charger was basically used for local driving. By the late 70's I don't remember us ever taking it into San Francisco, which was 30 miles south. This was likely because the car had a tendency to overheat.

By 1977 my Dad wanted to get rid of the Charger. I'm sure I told him I wanted to keep it back then (so I could fix it up and go cruising like in American Graffiti), but I'm not sure it really registered with him. Also in 1977 the state of California started to get serious about smog control. Dad didn't think he could get rid of the car without having to make expensive repairs to make it smog compliant. So, he essentially let the car sit in the driveway. The Charger was still running when I moved to Southern California in '79 to go to college. That same year my sister drove the Charger daily to the local community college which was only a few miles from the house. Short trips like this were apparently all the Charger could handle by this time.

By 1982 California began a smog check program and, according to Mom, this is why the Charger sat in the driveway for so many years. Dad was convinced he was going to have to make expensive repairs in order to get rid of the car, and he couldn't afford it. My sister had her own car now. So, by 1985 he didn't even bother to register the Charger any longer. He'd given up on it.

For nearly 20 years the Charger sat in Mom and Dad's driveway. It didn't run. The tires were flat. The hub caps had been stolen. It was an eyesore for the neighborhood. Whenever I was home for the holidays I'd tell Dad I wanted to take it. He wouldn't do anything about it, saying he had lost the title documents for the car (which was true). So it sat. People would knock on the door offering to buy the Charger. I told Mom and Dad to tell these people "no" because I wanted it. The car continued to sit in the driveway. In 1999, Dad passed away after a long illness. That Christmas in '99 I told Mom we had to do something about the Charger.



The Charger in Mom & Dad's driveway in California around 1999

The day after Christmas Mom pulled out all the paperwork on the Charger. She had a folder full of stuff, including cancelled car payment checks, but no title could be found. The last registration we could find still showed Varner Ward Leasing as the lessor and Dad as the lessee. Even worse, the registration still showed Wells Fargo Bank as the lienholder. We took everything we had to the DMV. They agreed to let Mom transfer the title to me since we had the car, all the old paperwork, and since the VIN didn't match anything on their computer.

I became owner of the Charger at the end of 1999. But it still sat in the driveway for another 4+ years. I didn't know what to do with it. I didn't know anything about restoration. And I couldn't just Google it back in 1999 like you can now. So, it took me a few years to figure out what to do with it. Finally, I had it trucked to Southern California to be worked on. It was an ordeal. The shop ended up changing owners and the new owners didn't care. They lost some parts. Nightmare. Finally I brought it to another place in St. Louis. They eventually finished it, but it wasn't as perfect as I would have hoped. So, earlier this year I finally took possession of it "as is" since I was tired of waiting for the ordeal to be over. I was glad to get it and actually drive it.

Exactly what I had done to the Charger in terms of restoration is not really that interesting. The car was in good shape since it was in California. No body rot and very little rust. Only one tiny ding in the rear left fender. It had 73,000 miles on it. One thing I did right was the color, which is "twilight blue" -- not a Dodge





**MEMBERSHIP BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:** Evan Springer reviewed the birthdays and anniversaries for the month of November.

**EVENT CALENDER:** Evan Springer – Evan gave an update.

**EVENT ADVERTISING:** Bill Bratton was absent – no report.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Ronda Cherry:

1. JDRF Kickoff, October 5 – Tom Kelly gave a recap.
2. A decision was made that a plaque should be made and given to Westgate for sponsoring the Cruise-In.
3. The Annual Christmas Party will be December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will again have the model car contest. We need a commitment of at least 45 members that will attend to be able to reserve this date. If we don't have enough committed we will have to find a new location.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Ronda Cherry

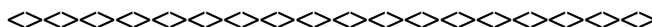
1. Ronda announced that John Bauer's mother fell and is in the hospital so John and Carol Ann will not be here.
2. Discussion regarding Awards/Plaques for Sponsorship for 2013.
3. Club member profile for newsletter and website:
  - a. November – Don Sainsbury
  - b. December – Recap of annual Christmas Party.
  - c. January 2014 – Tom Kelly
  - d. February 2014 – Bob Rosenberger
4. Possible tour for IMC members – Tom Kelly reported that he would lead a tour to visit Chuck Cochran's collection of automobiles in Shelbyville – November 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>. He will check with Chuck to see which date would be open for this.
5. Nominations from the floor for 2014 Officers was opened. The following were nominated:
  - a. For President – Tom Kelly and Ronda Cherry
  - b. For Vice President – Mike Wallace and Evan Springer
  - c. For Treasurer – Mike Leyes
  - d. For Secretary – Dave Opel
  - e. For Communication Director – Dave Watt
  - f. Ballots will be counted at the **November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting** (Thanksgiving is November 28<sup>th</sup>).
6. Mike Leyes reported that we will be discussing the 2014 T-shirts for 2014.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Leyes, and seconded by Brian Berkowitz, the motion carried.

President Ronda Cherry adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Opel



### **Member Birthdays and Anniversaries**

#### **December Birthdays:**

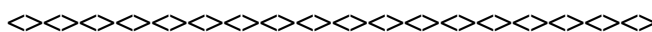
Kerry Sanders, 12-1  
Cheryl Wisdom, 12-8  
Jeff Andis, 12-10  
Dave Watt, 12-17

Dave Sanders, 12-5  
Susan Mayes, 12-9  
Constance Bratton, 12-16  
Tami Keilman, 12-31

#### **December Anniversaries:**

Jay and Nancy Shoaf, 12-23  
Bill and Constance Bratton, 12-28

Congratulations to all!



### **Upcoming Events – *\*\*Indy Mopar Club and others***

**\*\* December 15 – Indy Mopar Christmas Party – Logan's Roadhouse**, 600 Greenwood Park Drive South, on County Line Road, [MAP](#) 3pm to 5:30pm. We will have a private room. Logan's is asking that everyone order something from the [menu](#). A White Elephant gift exchange will be held (\$15 maximum). Women buy women's gifts, men buy men's gifts. The annual model car (glue together kits only) contest will also be held,

everyone is welcome to build something. Bring some extra cash to vote for your favorite model, donations benefiting the St. Vincent Depaul Food Bank. If anyone else would like to attend that hasn't already said yes, please email me with number of persons, or call me at 317-696-6071. Thanks, Dave Watt



### Tattler's Corner



Well, it seems like Halloween brought a "Witchy" visitor to our club meeting. When asked what vintage her broom was she replied – It's old and out of date. Maybe it's time for a new one.



Does anyone know this unexpected visitor to the last Indy Mopar meeting? (Picture provided by Evan Springer).

I very much appreciate any news about our members that have attended other events and/or have had their cars or stories in other publications. You can contact me by E-mail [jpeel83719@aol.com](mailto: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.)

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## Ballot for 2014 Indy Mopar Club Officers

If you will not be attending the November 21<sup>st</sup> regular monthly meeting, please vote for only one of each position and return to [Indymoparclub@indymoparclub.com](mailto:Indymoparclub@indymoparclub.com) or mail to Indy Mopar Club, % Jan Peel, 5128 E Rowney St, Indianapolis IN 46203. If you mail your ballot in be sure to mail this soon enough that she will receive it by November 21<sup>st</sup> to be counted.

- **President**

- ☐ Ronda Cherry
- ☐ Tom Kelly

- **Vice President**

- ☐ Evan Springer
- ☐ Mike Wallace

- **Treasurer**

- ☐ Mike Leyes – Unopposed

- **Secretary**

- ☐ Dave Opel - Unopposed

- **Communications Director**

- ☐ Dave Watt - Unopposed