



# Indy Mopar Club News

www.indymoparclub.com

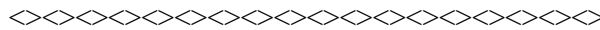
December 2023

Tom Kelly – Newsletter Editor 317.439.1727 e-mail: tomvkelly@aol.com

**Jeff Platzer, President 260.403.6616      Ronda Cherry, Vice President 317.997.6999**  
**Steve Wisdom, Treasurer 317.457.5205      David Opel, Secretary 317.450.7813**  
**Randy Smith, Communications Director 317.696.1894**

*Meetings are normally the last Thursday of every month except November & December. Refer to the President's Message for both those and future meeting dates.*

**Next regular meeting: January 25, 2024**; 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)



**Message from Jeff Platzer, Club President:**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone! Another year under our belt, and we're filled with anticipation for the coming year, and all the upcoming events we're anxious to attend.

We had a great Christmas party as usual. I believe we had 31 people show up, so that's pretty good. Steve gets the fried chicken from Kroger and I've gotta say it's as good as anybody's top fried chicken. I had to laugh at the number of desserts we got this year, as I think they outnumbered the other dishes two to one. A lot of fattening up for the holidays! The gift exchange is always a hoot, and this one was no different. We had a good time.

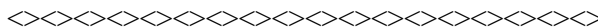
Not a whole lot to report on this time of year. The club officers will officially remain the same as last year. We did formally split the Communications Director position into two positions, so Randy Smith is in charge of the internet and email communications, and Tom Kelly is in charge of the monthly Newsletter and the Events calendar.

We expect to formalize the modified requirements to run for office next meeting. Most likely members will need to attend a minimum of 3 regular monthly meetings, and make up the required 6 total attendance requirements by attending any of our formal annual events, which include the Mopar Swap Meet, the Fletcher Cruise-in and the York Cruise-in. We're trying to make it easier to run for office, as we're all so busy it's hard to make some of the monthly meetings.

The Mopar Swap Meet will for sure be slightly different this year. Indy Cylinder Head will not need our services, so we'll be reducing our space down to what we hope will be two booth spaces in our regular location. Those that wish to display their car can do so if they want, but it will be up front at the main rotunda entrance. We hope to still have enough booth space for used parts sales. Not yet positive about everything, but we'll have more information next month, so stay tuned. I plan on taking a car, and I know a couple of other people thinking about it.

Stay warm!  
Jeff

***Pictures and coverage of IMC Christmas Party coming in January Newsletter!***

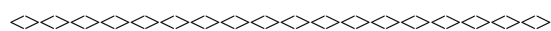


**November 30, 2023 Indy Mopar Club Meeting Minutes**

***Submitted by Dave Opel, IMC Secretary***

1. The meeting was called to order at 7pm by IMC Club President Jeff Platzer.
2. Introduction of Guests. – Jeff Platzer.
3. Secretary report - Dave Opel.
  - a. Minutes from October meeting accepted as published.
4. Treasurer's Report – Steve Wisdom.

- a. October Treasurer's Report was distributed.
  - b. Steve issued a Letter to York CDJR thanking them for sponsoring the Cruise-In; also sent a Thank You letter to Little Caesars for donating pizzas.
  - c. Balance Sheet Nov. 30, 2023
    - i. Oct 26 Balance: \$890.84
    - ii. Nov Income: \$35.00
    - iii. Nov Expenses: \$85.00
    - iv. Nov 30 Balance: \$840.84
    - v. Flower Fund: \$209.16
  - d. 62 Member Families Paid
5. Communications Director Report – Randy Smith
    - a. Working with Dave Watt to reduce Spam/Porn/Email.
  6. Member News, Birthdays, Anniversaries – Ronda Cherry
    - a. Read from newsletter – Congratulations to all!
  7. Event Calendar – Tom Kelly
    - a. Feb 24 Swap Meet/Car Show at Expo Bldg Columbus OH sponsored by Johnson Motorsports.
  8. Attendance – Ronda Cherry
    - a. 16 Members were present.
    - b. Attendees: Jeff Platzer, Ronda Cherry, Steve Wisdom, Randy Smith, Dave Opel, Dick & Dorinda Crawmer, Bill Edgerton, Tom Kelly, Rick Zimmerman, Dart & Donna Liebrandt, Evan Springer, Jeff Andis, John & Vickie Walker.
  9. OLD BUSINESS – Jeff Platzer
    - a. Jan Peel's funeral was well attended by family, friends and IMC Club members.
    - b. It was brought up in the meeting that the Newsletter Column 'TATTLER'S CORNER' was Jan's spot to find humorous stories of members and the title should be revised as a memorial to Jan. There was unanimous support for this change.
  10. NEW BUSINESS – Jeff Platzer
    - a. Info received from Deanna Lowery of Indy Cylinder Head, concerning the March Swap Meet at Indiana State Fairgrounds. Deanna stated that they have sufficient help to work the show so will not need IMC volunteers. She indicated that IMC will have 2 spaces. Per Steve Wisdom, IMC has paid \$110 for our Club Display spot in the past and the other 4 spots were provided free in return for our volunteer workers at the show. Ronda will seek additional clarification regarding booth & swap spot costs. Tom Kelly mentioned we could offer website & Newsletter advertising to Indy Cyl Head for spots in future.
    - b. Tom Kelly requested that Dave Watt submit an article on an interesting old Plymouth race car he had encountered recently (see current issue). Members were asked for submissions for future issues.
    - c. Revision to Officer Eligibility was discussed. Will require a change to the By-Laws so will be reviewed.
    - d. **Officer Elections:** No new nominations; Motion made by Evan Springer and Seconded by Rick Zimmerman to retain current officers. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Current officers will continue for year 2024.
    - e. A motion was made to split the Communications Director position into two (2) positions. Club By-Laws will require revision and approval.
    - f. Proposed Communications Director position revision & responsibility split would be as follows (with members currently handling these responsibilities):
      - i. Club Website and Social Media Sites – Randy Smith
      - ii. Club Newsletter and Event Calendar- Tom Kelly
  11. Motion to Adjourn by Dick Crawmer, Seconded by Randy Smith. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



## Max Wedge Urban Legend?

Years ago, my buddy Seth heard a rumor of a low mileage Plymouth Max Wedge in the Kokomo Indiana area. Since I work at Stellantis (formerly Chrysler) Kokomo Transmission Plant, I checked with some car guys, but no one knew anything about it. Over time, the thought of the car went away.

In 2022, a friend at work showed me a front-end photo of a bronze color 1963 Plymouth, he said “It has a lightweight hood”, then a photo of the odometer with 98 miles on it. He wouldn’t tell me anything else or the location. So I called Seth to see if he knew what color Max Wedge car he had told me about many years earlier. His friend Floyd said “blue”, but when Seth asked, “are you sure it wasn’t bronze?”, Floyd said “yes, it *IS* bronze”. Luckily, Floyd knew the location. He also said the owner had passed away.

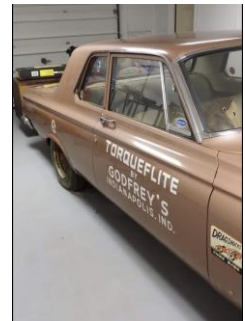
Floyd made a call to a friend of the late owner, and with that connection, Seth made arrangements to look at the car. The executor of the estate was the nephew of the car owner. As Seth looked at this car (the executor wouldn’t allow me to look yet), he couldn’t believe that it was a 1 of 33, 1963 Plymouth Savoy with the High Compression 426 Max Wedge engine, and only 1 of 25 with the pushbutton 727 automatic transmission. Being a high compression engine also meant it was a “lightweight”, meaning it had numerous aluminum parts including the hood, hood scoop, fenders, bumper brackets, and door hinges. It even has lightweight steel bumpers. A close look at the interior, the odometer showed, you guessed it, 98 miles.

Come to find out, the original owner, Charles D., worked at RCA in Indianapolis, and purchased the car at a dealership in the area. Eventually Charles took a job at the Chrysler Kokomo Transmission Plant and moved to Kokomo. He started racing the car from new and blew up the original engine soon after. After picking up a warranty short block, raced it again, and blew it up the second time by 1965. The car was never to run again. It sat in a 3 car detached garage in Kokomo for over 40 years with a wall built next to it so you couldn’t even see it was in there. Many of Charles’ friends and family did not know the car was there or that he even owned it.

Seth was then able to get me in contact to look at the car. While there, I talked to Charles’ nephew Roger, the executor of the estate. In expressing my interest in purchasing the car, found out that there was an offer on it already. I offered to meet or beat that offer, but all the legal estate papers had to be taken care of before anything could be sold.

After several months of waiting for the paperwork to be finalized, the estate was settled, so the Max Wedge could be sold. At that same time, my buddy Brian called to tell me about this same car and that a car collector/car trader buddy of his had made a much larger offer. I knew it was out of my price range at that point, so I called Seth to give him the bad news. He mentioned that our friend Bruce in Minnesota might be interested in buying it. So, I called Bruce the next morning and before I could give him all the details, he said, “I’ll buy it, when should I call the executor?”. I said, “right now before the other guy brings cash and a trailer”.

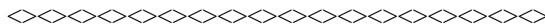
Bruce made the phone call and within a few hours struck up a deal. He picked up the car in 2022 and proceeded to carefully clean, detail, and polish this 98 original mile time capsule. In the meantime, Bruce acquired a correct 1963 High Compression 426 Max Wedge engine block and dropped it off at the machine shop. With many parts and machining delays, the engine returned to Bruce who then painted, detailed, and installed it. For the first time since 1965, this 1 of 33, 426 Max Wedge Plymouth Savoy fired up and ran on November 15, 2023, 58 years since the last time it ran.



Bruce displayed the '63 Plymouth MW at the Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals held at the Donald Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont Illinois, November 18-19. It was quite a sight to see a 98 mile (now 101 mile) unrestored lightweight 1963 Plymouth Savoy Max Wedge. It was definitely a hit and had a lot of movers and shakers in the muscle car world amazed that it was hidden away since 1965.



*Submitted by Dave Watt*



### **PURE STOCK MUSCLE CAR DRAG RACE 2023 – IMC MEMBERS PARTICIPATE**

The annual Pure Stock Muscle Car Drag Race (PSMCDR) was held at Mid-Michigan Motorplex in Stanton Michigan this past September 15 & 16, 2023. A few IMC members participated again as both racers and spectators. Mike Leyes, Dave Watt and Jim Kelly donned helmets and hit the quarter mile as Tom, Dan, Rick and John Kelly and other family members spectated. All three participants had passes well into the 12 second zone running stock major engine and trans components, full stock exhaust (no headers allowed) and on stock size DOT treaded tires (no slicks allowed). There were approximately 110 participants of all makes and marquis. The vehicles are of concourse show caliber but through a lot of blueprint machining and hard work run better than most modified big cam, open headers and drag slick equipped musclecars. Its a great show if you get a chance to attend!

*Submitted by Tom Kelly*



Mike Leyes' '69 Road Runner 440-6BBL

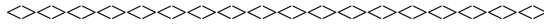
Jim Kelly's '63 Plymouth 426 Max Wedge

Dave Watt's '71 340 Duster





Just a few of the beautiful (and fast) muscle cars at the PSMCDR at Stanton Michigan every September.



### Chuck Cochran 1930-2023

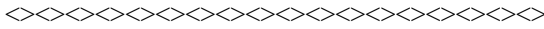
It is with great sadness that we've learned of the passing of another member of the IMC as well as numerous other Chrysler Clubs. Chuck Cochran passed away December 24, 2023, at the age of 93. Many members may remember Chuck hosting an open house at his garage-museum a number of years ago where we were fortunate to view his extensive collection of Airflows, automobilia and other beautiful cars of the 30s, 40s & 50s. As a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel and pilot as noted in the tribute below, Chuck loved Airflows and all vehicles designed with aerodynamics in mind. Chuck and his late wife Char even owned a Plymouth Superbird at one time because of its aero design. Chuck had a deep love of Greyhounds and adopted three after their difficult life as racing dogs ended. He was likely one of the most knowledgeable authorities on Chrysler and DeSoto Airflows of modern day. He will be missed greatly. *Tom Kelly*

*Visitation will be Friday Dec. 29, from 10am-Noon at Murphy-Parks Funeral Services, 703 S. Harrison St. Shelbyville, IN 46176.*



Kim Forster and I learned early this morning of the passing of group expert and top contributor, Chuck Cochran. Pictured is a young Chuck Cochran with Carl Breer, the father of the Airflow. As an Air Force pilot, Chuck flew 7,000 hours in eight different types of airplanes. During the Vietnam war, he flew over 200 sorties in the combat zone for which he was credited with 87 missions and received two Air Medals. Chuck will be missed by all who knew him.





**TATTLER'S CORNER** *(In Memory of Jan Peel and her sense of humor!)*



*Evidently someone in the Club is famous and didn't share with us until Steve Wisdom was driving through the Greenwood area and noticed!!! Congratulations Evan! Obviously, the city appreciated Evan's years of hard work and dedication overseeing the Greenwood Park Department!*



**January 2024 Birthdays:**

**Rosemarie Wyer 01/03**

**Kevin Wedan 01/20**

**Sheilla Collins 01/11**

**LouAnn Ewing 01/21**

**Bob Vorpe 01/17**

**Bill Edgerton 01/26**

**January 2024 Anniversaries:**

**Randi & Bill Edgerton 01/20**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!**

**2024 INDY MOPAR CLUB – EVENT LIST**    **TBV – to be verified**    **TBD – to be determined**    **R0 Updated 12/27/23 tvk**    **IMC Contact**

*The 2024 Event List will be issued in the January Newsletter when event dates are confirmed. tvk*