



# Indy Mopar Club News

www.indymoparclub.com

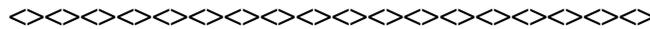
April 2018

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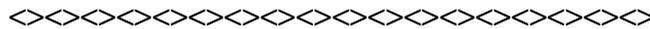
<b>Lynn Miller, President 317.363.9224</b>	<b>Bob Thomas, Vice President 317.508.5805</b>
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Meetings are the last Thursday of every month except November & December.

**Next regular meeting: Thursday, April 26, 2018**, 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).



Our sincere condolences go out to Larry and Susan Mayes – Barbara Mayes, Larry’s mother, passed away February 23<sup>rd</sup>.



## Presidents Message

“Well – Spring was supposed to be here”

Just a quick little note this time. I have had a busy month and been under the weather due to crazy weather.

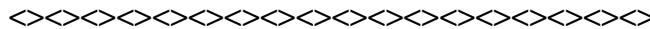
Our poor Mopars are feeling a little jilted by Mother Nature as we humans are too. Hope We had a few days of beautiful weather and then winter, then storms, then cold.. brrrrr.

However, April is not all lost. Weather permitting, Wild Wednesday’s Test and Tune at Lucas Oil Raceway <http://www.lucasoilraceway.com/events/wild-wednesday/> is the place to be if you want to test the limits of your speedometer! Check out the link above for more details. Also there is a fundraiser for May is right around the corner with Cinco de Mopar in Lafayette getting things going. For those interested in possibly going as a group, please contact Tom Kelly.

I will be looking at a couple of days in May for tour of Indy Cylinder head. I will be asking for two volunteers to be contact point for those interested in going.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting!

Mopar Love,  
Lynn & Molly



## Automotive Archeology: PART TWO

### The History of my 1970 ‘Cuda 440-6 Continued...

This is a continuation of the story of the history of a project car I’ve had for nearly 29 years.

As noted last month, after a year and a half of trying to locate the owner of the car from early ‘70s until he sold it in 1980, we finally met last fall. Here are the highlights of information on the history of the 440-6BBL ‘70 Cuda that the owner (Dennis) provided me when he and his wife met with me:

- As Dennis was too young (18 or 19) to get a bank loan on this amount at the time, his brother originally took out the loan to purchase the car for him in 1972 or 1973. It was on the Tom Costin Buick Used Car Lot in Plainfield Indiana, on US 40 & near new State Road 267 South. It was in very good condition with about 24,000 miles. The ‘Cuda was the personal car of a Costin salesman, not the dealership’s car. The salesman was selling it because he was getting married and needed a larger car. Dennis said his brother bought it through the Lizton Bank.

- On August 14, 1975 Dennis obtained a loan on the car from First National Bank and Trust and it was transferred from his brother's name to Dennis' name (this is the original Title I have) when Dennis was 21 yrs. old.
- Dennis remembered the car payment was \$67 a month and the insurance was \$68 a month, a dollar more than paying for the car!
- The original transmission started slipping so Dennis took it to AAMCO in Speedway Indiana and they swapped it with one they had already rebuilt, in stock in their shop (a '68 Torqueflite is still in the car currently).
- Per Dennis the local Police were always stopping him without reason because of the car. He thought they might have been jealous of him having a new, nice car for his age. They would stop him & say his tires were too wide and he'd say they fit in the fenders. Then they'd say that it sat up too high in the back. He got pulled over so often and it got so bad, he wouldn't drive the Cuda into Plainfield. He bought a Pinto to drive daily and even his wife said "he had this beautiful Cuda but wouldn't drive it when we went out on dates".
- The car's most infamous story per Dennis involved deciding to run from the local police one day when he felt they had no reason to pull him over. It resulted in being caught by State Police via radar & radio on I-70 West as he watched the speedometer climb over 145. The car still had the same 3.23 gears as it does today so had a good top end. Seven traffic tickets, some jail time, loss of license and loss of a good amount of money followed.
- Since the 'Cuda was still in his older brother's name, his brother went to the police department to get the car released from police impound. The arresting officer would not release it but the Police Chief over-ruled him because it was registered as his brother's car, not Dennis'. The policeman said with a smug look, that's OK, it won't start anyway, he blew it up running from us. Dennis' brother went to the car, reached up under the dash and flipped the 'ignition kill' toggle switch that Dennis had wired it previously to prevent theft. Dennis had used it the night of the arrest to prevent someone from blowing it up in spite. The 440 engine cranked & fired right up. The arresting officer's jaw dropped immediately according to Dennis' brother as he slowly drove it away!
- When Dennis rebuilt the engine a few years later, the car was setting at his brother's house with the engine out. The L-60 tires were stolen and Dennis' brother told him the garage door had been left open and someone stole the 6BBL Holley carbs and intake. Dennis' brother gave him a 4 barrel intake and a Carter Thermoquad carburetor to put it back together. Dennis said he always suspected his mother and brother plotted and sold the Holley 6 BBL carbs to slow him & the Cuda down.
- When the bushings wore out in the dual point Prestolite distributor, he replaced it with a Mallory distributor and 'one of those big yellow coils (an Accel coil I assume);
- Dennis said he sold the car to a fellow who ended up only wanting it for the rubber bumpers and shaker hood and special parts. The buyer wanted to upgrade the 383 Cuda convertible he already owned.
- The buyer was not interested in the original engine which Dennis had rebuilt with TRW 12:1 high compression pistons so the engine was pulled before the sale. Dennis's nephew bought it and then resold it at a swap meet some time later (Good Guys show at Indy Motor Speedway as he remembers).
- Dennis said he did not remember removing the fender tag before he sold it so didn't know when it disappeared.
- I told Dennis I bought the car from Gary Bastin in 1989. It was being stored at Darrell Steiger's garage when I answered the Trader advertisement for the Cuda & the parts car. Darrell was another drag racer I had met in my drag racing days who raced with Gary.



- Dennis said he didn't recognize Gary's name and said that was not who he sold it to. This led me to contact Gary Bastin again to find out the car's ownership trail if possible.

Interestingly enough, I had seen Gary a few years earlier than this at an Indy Mopar Club meeting where he came as a guest of Bill Hess. They spoke at the meeting about working on an early Valiant to build a replica straight axle 'FX drag car'. I reintroduced myself to Gary at the time and mentioned I had purchase the cars from him years prior. We did not speak in detail about the car at the time and I failed to get his phone number.

To try to contact him again, I spoke to another friend Jamie Fenner, who races in NHRA Stock Eliminator with Darrell Steiger. He gave me a number and I contacted Darrell. I asked if he had Gary's number; he did and provided it.

On November 13, 2017 I contacted Gary Bastin who I purchased both cars from on Jan 21, 1989:

- I told Gary of my recent meeting and conversation with Dennis whom I had assumed sold the 440-6BBL Cuda to Gary (since Dennis' name was still on the Indiana Title that Gary provided when I bought the car). Gary said the car had traded hands a couple of times before he got it. As it was a non-running vehicle, no one bothered to transfer the title. Every time it sold Dennis' original title just changed hands. Gary said it had been purchased from Dennis by a guy named Steve Poynter for the special parts.
- Mr. Poynter was only interested in stripping the rubber bumpers, the Shaker hood assembly and other miscellaneous parts for the '71 Lime Green 383 Cuda convertible he had at the time; that's why he did not want the engine.
- Mr. Poynter did not transfer the title and wasn't interested in the car so according to Gary, he sold the rolling 'Cuda body to a guy named Mike Smith. Again, per Gary, Mr. Smith parked the 'Cuda back in a gravel pit near SR 37 & Thompson Rd and did nothing with it. He eventually became more involved in other interests than the car. He too, did not transfer the title prior to selling it to Gary.



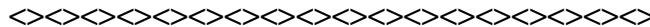
- Gary also did not transfer the title to his name. Gary provided me with the same 1975 Indiana Title in Dennis' name that Dennis signed on the back as 'Seller' on May 31, 1980. With Gary's signed Bill of Sale & the old titles, I paid Gary the balance on both cars on January 21, 1989.

Obviously, I'd love to have the name of the Costin Salesman that owned the car prior to 1972, but that dealership closed in 1988 from what I can tell. And I'm still not sure what Chrysler dealership sold the car new as it was a two-year-old used car when Dennis got it. The Plainfield Chrysler dealership was Phillips Chrysler back then and no longer exists so no records. It is still pretty interesting knowing its history at least as far back as '72-73.

As this chapter closes, I have studied my reference books, parts manuals and scanned the Mopar and E-body internet forums. I have generated a list of the Cuda's options by their sales code and started compiling correct parts numbers and casting numbers for some of the hard to find parts. I have purchased a reproduction Rim Blow Wheel & a set of Cuda Road Lamps. I just picked up the correct '70-71 exhaust manifolds for the 440-6 engine at the March Indy Cylinder Head Swap meet. My eBay shopping has provided numerous small components and recently a correct part number e-Body 3 Speed Wiper Motor. It was a 'Required Option' due to Shaker assembly clearance. I have a correct year 440 HP engine block & heads for my 6BBL carbs and intake. I have also collected all the Shaker parts but do need to inventory all the rest of the parts I have squirreled away over the years to get an idea of other parts I'll need.

Fellow IMC member Dave Watt came out and helped me inspect the car last November to document its current equipment. We checked for evidence of past equipment and to document the car after my meeting with Dennis. I'm looking forward to continuing the chase for the balance of parts needed. Of course, with this fun comes the painful activity of throwing more money at it. But regardless, it is an awesome Project 'Cuda!

Tom Kelly April 2018



### INDY MOPAR CLUB MONTHLY MEETING, March 29, 2018

#### WELCOME AND SIGN-IN:

Club President Lynn Miller opened the meeting at 7:00pm with a "Good Evening and Thank You for coming" greeting.

The meeting was attended by Chester Branham, Chuck & Linda Butler, Stephen Claycomb, Dick & Dorinda Crawmer, Bill & Randi Edgetton, Tom & Teresa Kelly, Ron & Dru Kriech, Mike Leyes, Dart & Donna Liebrandt, Lynn Miller, Rick Ordo, Jan Peel and guest Bob Jones, Bruce & Lois Phillips, Jeff Pletzer, Bob Rosenberger, Randy Smith, Evan Springer, and Bob Thomas,

Jan Peel had everyone signed in before start of meeting. Lynn asked if there were any guests and Bob Jones ("Jan's chauffeur for the evening") introduced himself.

Lynn noted there was a lot of information to cover and asked the group if it was OK to suspend introductions and there were no objections.

**Lynn started** by naming and thanking all the volunteers at the Indy Cylinder Head Show at the Fairgrounds. Chuck Butler noted he was successful in selling his Coronet at the show and Evan Springer jokingly asked what % (percent) the Club would get from the sale.

A. Members of the group thanked Lynn for the breakfast donuts on Saturday morning  
**Secretary's Report – Dave Opel was absent, so Lynn** asked if any changes or updates to the February Minutes as published in the IMC Newsletter. Chet Branham made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Evan Springer seconded the motion.

**Treasurer's Report –** Steve Wisdom was on vacation so **Bob Thomas, Club VP** stood in:

- A. Bob noted highlights of the Indy Cylinder Head Show, including the sale of shirts, 12 membership renewals and one new membership.
  1. The Treasurer's report was distributed at the meeting and showed a balance as of March 29, 2018, of \$1,560.81; the Flower Fund balance is \$199.66. The treasurer's report covered the purchase of the

IMC “Thank You Plaque” for our Sponsor, presented to Indy Cylinder Head at the event. A group presentation photo was taken on Saturday at the show.

#### **Communication Director – Randy Smith**

- A. Randy informed the group that the membership form has been updated and is on the website.

#### **Member News, Birthdays, Anniversaries – Bob Thomas**

- A. Report was given by Bob, congratulations to all.

#### **Event Calendar – Bob Thomas**

- A. Bob noted that nothing shown for April except the Meeting. May does include the Cinco de Mopar Show in Lafayette, the Mecum Indy Auction, and the Chrysler Classic in Columbus Ohio.

Upcoming events were noted.

#### **Old Business – Lynn Miller**

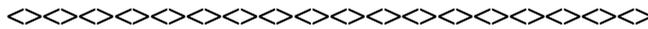
- A. Evan Springer said the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Indy Run/Walk has been scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2018. 9am check-in and 10:30 event start of 5k or a 1m was noted.
- B. The JDRF “Thank You” letter to the IMC needs updated on the Club website. Randy asked if old copies should be left or only the most current. Evan Springer made a motion that only the most current letter be retained on the website, Bob Rosenberger seconded the motion, the motion carried.
- C. World of Wheels – Lynn Miller
  - 1. Lynn brought up that the World of Wheels presents an opportunity for the Club to set up a booth to recruit new members.
- D. Food Service at our two IMC Cruise-IN events was discussed.
  - 1. Westgate will use the same vendor as last year.
  - 2. Fletcher is discussing with the local Fire Department to see if any interest in providing the service.
- E. Lynn checked with Indy Cylinder Head regarding a Club Tour of their facility.
  - 1. Lynn asked if a Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday would work best and discussion followed.
  - 2. ICH is willing to schedule a time on Saturday even if not working during the time.
  - 3. Lynn will work with Indy Cyl Hd on a couple of dates and then have the club decide at next meeting.
- F. Club Members were asked for volunteers to be contacts for upcoming events:
  - 1. May 5, 2018 – Cinco de Mopar, Lafayette IN – Tom Kelly
  - 2. July 7, 2018 – Fletcher Cruise-In, Franklin IN – Rick Ordo
  - 3. October 6, 2018 – JDRF Walk – Indianapolis Indians Stadium/Victory Field – Evan Springer
    - a. While speaking of the JDRF Run/Walk, Lynn asked for members to start planning now to support this event to have a strong Club showing as it is our designated charity.
- G. Club Newsletter Member Profile
  - 1. Tom Kelly was thanked for his 440-6 Cuda Article Part 1 and agreed to write Part 2 since there was a lot of interest.
  - 2. April - Tom Kelly will write Part 2
  - 3. May – Evan Springer

#### **New Business – Lynn Miller**

- A. Other events that the club could attend as a group were discussed:
  - 1. O’Reilly Raceway Park (Indpls Raceway Park) Test & Tune events that include car show as well. The first event will begin in April on Wednesday’s throughout the summer. Gates open at 5pm with racing at 5:30pm.
  - 2. Evan noted that the “Indy Mopars” group affiliated with Modern Mopars of Indiana (MMOI), via Melinda Thompson, announced a Boone County Fairgrounds Car Show on April 28 from 9a-5p. Free Spectator Admission with \$20 per car entry.
  - 3. Tom Kelly mentioned that Kevin Reeves of the Hoosier Plymouth Owners Club provided dates of “Cars & Coffee at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum”. The initial event is Saturday April 14 at 9a-12noon with an event each month thru the summer. The other dates will be provided to Randy for publication to the members. The event will be in the Museum’s Parking Lot, entered from 16<sup>th</sup> Street at the main under track entryway.

4. Kroger in Mooresville, Saturday evenings at Lowes in Avon & the first Friday of the Month on the Downtown Square in Danville.
5. Chet nominated Evan to compile Information on these events for the Club!
- B. Lynn suggested that a "Tech Talk" would be a nice event to consider for the club and asked for suggestions.
- C. The 50/50 was taken to replenish the Flower Fund. Evan was the winning ticket holder.
- D. Prior to closing the meeting, Dart Liebrandt said he had a set of 14" Rallye Wheels with trim rings with BFG tires (80% tread) for sale, 5x4" bolt pattern \$650.
- E. Bruce Phillips needs misc. '67-69 Barracuda parts so contact him if you have parts for sale.
- F. Lynn asked all to tip the waitress and asked for a motion to close the meeting. Bob Rosenberger made the motion and Bob Thomas seconded the motion, the motion carried.

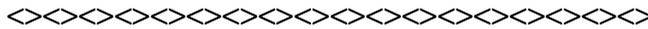
Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Kelly in Dave Opel's absence, April 2018



**Sick, Ailing, or other Information**

**Steve Wisdom** had surgery on April 11th. All went well, the surgeon was able to locate the torn tendons and reattach. 6 weeks in a cast, with no weight on it. Good luck Steve with the 6 weeks.

**Ronda Cherry** is still taking therapy for her shoulder.



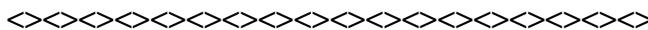
**May Birthdays:**

- |                    |                    |                         |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Gerry Bush, 5-5    | Curt Carzares, 5-7 | Harry Ewing, 5-7        |
| Dick Crawmer, 5-11 | Ed Leyes, 5-12     | Nicole Springer, 5-12   |
| Carla Crask, 5-13  | Xiang Thomas, 5-16 | Glenn Keilman, Jr, 5-19 |
| Steve Wisdom, 5-22 | Mary Leyes, 5-23   | Bill Crask, 5-24        |
| Mike Leyes, 5-28   |                    |                         |

**May Anniversaries:**

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Evan and Nicole Springer, 5-1   | Bob and Kim Vorpe, 5-17       |
| Bob and Xiang Thomas, 5-20      | Steve and Michelle Haug, 5-25 |
| Bob and Karen Rosenberger, 5-26 |                               |

**Congratulations to all!**



**Items For Sale**

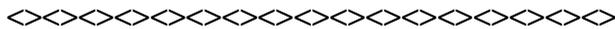
**FOR SALE, phone 812-350-7269**

**4 each** = 14 inch 5X4" lug nut pattern Rallye Wheels with Trim Rings and Center Cap, mounted with BF Goodrich Radial T/A tires – P225 / 70 R14, with 80% tread left. \$650.00 OBO.

**1 each** = Spare tire, 13 inch steel rim 5X4" lug pattern, mounted with Performance Radial GT tire – P195 / 70 R13, with good tread. \$75.00 OBO.

**Items needed**

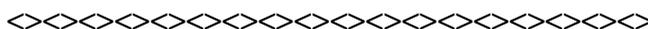
Bruce Phillips needs misc. '67-69 Barracuda parts so contact him if you have parts for sale. 317-370-3631



**Tattler's Corner**



Lynn Miller, Bob Thomas, and Tom Kelly are doing a great job substituting for absent officers/members. A BIG thanks to them. Say an extra prayer for Cheryl Wisdom for having to be the nurse to Steve for those 6 weeks.



**2018 INDY MOPAR CLUB – EVENT LIST – TBV – to be verified TBD – to be determined**

Jan	25	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Feb	9-11	Fri-Sun		World of Wheels	Ind State Fairgrounds	Tom Kelly
	18	Sun	3pm	Chicagoland Mopar Connection Swap Meet	Illinois	Tom Kelly
	22	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Mar	2	Fri	TBD	Set-Up – Indy Cyl Hd Chrysler Perfor. Trade Show		Ronda Cherry
	3-4	Sat-Sun		Indy Cyl Hd Chrysler Performance Trade Show	Ind State Fairgrounds	Lynn Miller
	29	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Apr	14	Sat	9-Noon	IMS Speedway Cars & Coffee	Speedway –Indianapolis	Tom Kelly
	26	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
May	5	Sat	11a-5p	Cinco de Mopar-American Cancer Society Car Show	Lafayette, IN	Tom Kelly
	13	Sun	9-Noon	IMS Speedway Cars & Coffee	Speedway –Indianapolis	Tom Kelly
	15-20	Tue-Sun		Mecum Collector Car Auction	IN State Fairgrounds	Tom Kelly
	18-20	Fri-Sun		Chrysler Power Classic Nat'l Trail Raceway	Columbus OH	Dave Watt
	31	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Jun	9	Sat	9-Noon	IMS Speedway Cars & Coffee	Speedway –Indianapolis	Tom Kelly
	20-24	Wed-Sun		Airflow Club of America National Meet	Chico CA	Tom Kelly
	28	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
	29-30	Fri-Sat		FAST-Pure Stock Drags	Martin MI	Dave Watt-Mike Leyes
Jul	7	Sat	TBD	Fletcher CDJR/IMC Cruise-In	Franklin, IN	Lynn Miller
	13-15	Fri-Sun		Carlisle Chrysler Nats	Carlisle PA	Dave Watt
	14	Sat	9-Noon	IMS Speedway Cars & Coffee	Speedway –Indianapolis	Tom Kelly
	21-22	Sat-Sun		Belvidere Mopar Happening	Belvidere IL	Tom Kelly
	24-28	Tue-Sat		Plymouth Owners Club National Meet	Northville/Novi MI	Tom Kelly/Jan Peel
	26	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Aug	10-12	Fri-Sun		MOPAR NATIONALS-Nat'l Trails Raceway	Columbus (Hebron) OH	Tom Kelly
	11	Sat	9-Noon	IMS Speedway Cars & Coffee	Speedway –Indianapolis	Tom Kelly
	14-18	Tue-Sat		Back to the Bricks Car Show	Flint MI	Tom Kelly
	17-19	Fri-Sun		Woodward Dream Cruise	Oakland County MI	Tom Kelly
	22-26	Wed-Sun		National DeSoto Club Convention	Branson MO	Tom Kelly
	30	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
	31-TBV	Fri	TBD	DSR Open House-Car Show	Brownsburg IN	Evan Springer
Sep	4-8	Tue-Sat		Walter P Chrysler Club National Meet	Chattanooga TN	Tom Kelly
	8	Sat	TBD	West Gate Chrysler / IMC Cruise-in	Plainfield IN	Lynn Miller
	14-15	Fri-Sat		Pure Stock Muscle Car Drag Race	Stanton MI	Dave Watt/Mike Leyes
	15	Sat	9-Noon	IMS Speedway Cars & Coffee	Speedway –Indianapolis	Tom Kelly
	20-23	Thu-Sun		NMCA Race-Show	Lucas Raceway (IRP-Clairmont)	Dave Watt
	27	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Oct	6	Sat	9a-1pm	JDRF RUN/WALK – Victory Field	Indianapolis IN	Evan Springer
	13	Sat	9-Noon	IMS Speedway Cars & Coffee	Speedway –Indianapolis	Tom Kelly
	25	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg Nominations for 2018 Officers	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Nov	17-18	Sat-Sun		Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals show	Rosemont IL	Tom Kelly
	29	Thur	7-8p	Indy Mopar Club Monthly Mtg Election night for 2019 Officers	MCL Cafeteria	Lynn Miller
Dec	TBD	Sat		Indy Mopar Club Christmas Party	Steve Wisdom's Clubhouse 1202 Leisure Lane, Greenwood 46142	Lynn Miller