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BONUS

2023 MOPAR SHOW PLANNER INSIDE!

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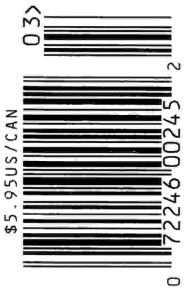
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APRIL 2023

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SHOW & GO 2023

It seems like for the last two years we've been barraged with government think about what we can and cannot do, what we can and cannot say, and where we can and cannot go. I think as far as the public is concerned, we've finally reached the end of our rope. Grownups are tired of being told what they can and cannot do. It's not that unthinkable to imagine some bullshit government mandate restricting the use of our old gas powered cars in the not so far away future. Couple that with the fact that the majority of the Mopar crowd now have less days ahead of them than behind, and it's not that hard to see that, as a hobby, we're arriving at a place where the "Shawshank Redemption Rule" is taking hold - you know, that great line from the movie that says "It's time to either get busy living or get busy dying." For 2023, I

think that will be the mantra of people flocking back to Mopar shows in numbers that could rival pre-pandemic levels. It's with a sad heart that since I penned my last editorial, the Mopar community has lost Smitty, longtime Edelbrock front man, avid Road Runner memorabilia collector Michele Dozeman, and everybody's friend and Nashville club member, Stan Hardcastle. What do all three of these people have in common? They loved getting out from behind a computer and taking in as many car shows as they could, despite this world's challenges. For 2023, I suggest you do the same, because like I've stated in prior articles, nothing lasts forever; not the car shows we love or even the friends we meet at them. Life is short my friends, make sure you live it well!

In this month's issue, as we have for countless prior years, MCG's

compiled a Mopar show planner. This is certainly not a complete list of every Mopar show; that would literally take up the whole book. Rather, these are some of the top shows we believe will turn into the best Mopar gatherings of the year. Many of these shows you may already know about, but there are some notable differences in 2023 that you need to be aware of. First off, the Indy Trade Show, that has long taken place on the first weekend of March, made a change last year that threw a lot of people off. Instead of being a Saturday and Sunday show, it was changed to Friday and Saturday. Despite some confusion, the change worked well for the shows attendance, so once again for 2023, it will take place on a Friday and Saturday. So, don't come showing up on Sunday thinking there's a show going on in Indy, or for that matter, if you



want to get first dibs on all the hard-to-find cool parts, you'd better be there Friday morning!

Also happening in the month of March this year is the Las Vegas Muscle Cars at the Strip Show, which, despite being an open show now, has a deep tradition of being extremely Mopar heavy because of its beginnings as Mopars at the Strip. It's now best known as just "The MATs". If you want to see some different Mopar hardware from the western part of the United States and Canada, then this is the show for you. It is also held at arguably one of the best race facilities in the country, so you can bet the drag racing action will be strong. The legendary Keith Black engine company has recently been acquired by a new owner, and The MATs will be the first show they will attend under this new ownership. I'm very excited to see what they have in store. Making this weekend in Vegas a once-in-a-lifetime event for Mopar lovers, this year, Dodge has rented out the Las Vegas Speedway for the Monday just after The MATs, extending the fun for Mopar



ACCIDENTAL HISTORY WAS MADE AT MCACN 2022 WHEN THESE THREE RO23 HEMI BELVEDERES WERE PARKED TOGETHER, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, IT BECAME NOTED THAT THE MR. 5 & 50, SOX AND MARTIN, AND FERRIS MOTORS CARS, WERE ALL SEQUENTIALLY SERIAL NUMBERED!

lovers for an additional day! Dodge is calling this their "Last Call Performance Event," marking the monumental end of the Hemi engine program and the beginning of their new electric performance cars. It will be a day of drag racing, thrill rides, and even a Mopar-only car show. Dodge will also debut the seventh and final "Last Call" special edition Hemi car at this event.

Arguably the most up-and-coming Mopar show for 2023 will be the Southern Plains Mopar Show. I've personally always fantasized about a little town somewhere out west that car guys could completely take over for a weekend and turn into hot rod heaven, something akin to what Sturgis is for Harley guys. The Southern Plains Mopar show actually began two years ago as a summertime dragstrip event just outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma, but for 2023, they have some major changes planned. This year, both the show date and proximity will be changed. It will now be happening in May, and it's been moved to Bristow, Oklahoma - a little throwback town just thirty miles from Tulsa on old Route 66. You may also recall, this is the town with the giant Chrysler neon tower sign we

MCACN 2022 HOSTED WHAT WAS ARGUABLY THE MOST IMPRESSIVE GATHERING OF MR. NORM'S CARS TO DATE. MY TWO FAVORITES WERE WADE OGLE'S 1971 LIFT OFF HOOD CHALLENGER AND THIS ORIGINAL 1971 FUNNY CAR WHICH INCIDENTALLY WAS SOLD TO A NEW OWNER AT THE SHOW.

MCACN ISN'T ALL ABOUT BIG MOTOR CARS, DESPITE ITS NAME. CHECK OUT THIS IMMACULATE '64 CORONET THAT WAS A FACTORY SLANT SIX, TWO TONE, THREE-ON-THE-TREE CAR IN VIRTUALLY MINT CONCOURS CONDITION! WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU SAW ANOTHER ONE OF THESE?

featured in the October issue. Rather than having the show in one particular spot, the whole town wants to welcome Mopar lovers. There will be a Mopar show, swap meet, burnout contest, and, wait for it, they're even

going to block off a road for heads-up street racing! From what I understand, the mayor, city council, and chief of police, are all onboard with all of this. With this change, the





EVERY YEAR, BOB ASHTON PUTS TOGETHER A LIMITED-EDITION BOOK CONTAINING SOME OF HIS FAVORITE CARS FROM MCACN OR HIGHLIGHTING A SPECIAL DISPLAY. THIS YEAR'S BOOK PERTAINS TO THE EXTRAORDINARY GATHERING OF WINGED CARS AT MCACN 2022, AND IT FEATURES SOME GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE BRIEF HISTORY OF EACH CAR. SO, GRAB ONE BEFORE THEY'RE GONE! YOU CAN FIND AN ONLINE ORDER FORM AT WWW.MCACN.COM, AND USE THE PROMO CODE MCG TO SAVE A BIT OF CASH!



THIS OLDS 442 LEFT THE GM FACTORY LINE PAINTED MOPAR PLUM CRAZY...HOW COOL IS THAT.



THE FAMED "SILVER BULLET" HEMI BELVEDERE/GTX STREET RACER/TEST BED CAR THAT WAS AN UNHOLY TERROR ON THE STREETS OF DETROIT FOR HALF A DECADE WAS OUT ON DISPLAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE, AND IT STILL LOOKS JUST AS MENACING AS IT DID WHEN IT WAS RUMBLING ON WOODWARD BACK IN THE LATE SIXTIES.

Southern Plains Mopar Show now has the potential of becoming one the most exciting and unique car events anywhere.

Down in Florida, the battle for Ocala continues! Three years ago, the Brat Pack Chapter of the FMA (the Florida Mopar Association) a council of Florida clubs, broke ranks from the FMA's long-running annual show. The FMA's show was previously known as "Mopars with Big Daddy" until it moved from its longtime venue at the Don Garlits' Museum of Drag Racing to a nearby horse park. It was then renamed "The Sunshine State Mopar Show." Shortly after the FMA's show was moved and renamed, the Brat Pack put together a show at the museum and rejuvenated the old name, "Mopars with Big Daddy." It was put on the first weekend of November. The problem with this was the FMA's show was on the second weekend of November. So, now what we had here were two major Mopar shows one week apart, only blocks away from each other. I think it's safe to say, this hasn't been good for either show. For 2023, the FMA is making a change to clear up the confusion by moving their show forward to Memorial Day weekend in the month of May, which should now put some much-needed space between the two events, hopefully giving each show the space they needed to reach their maximum potential.

Until we all have a chance to make it out to what might be one of the best Mopar show years ever, we've assembled an entire issue highlighting some of our favorite Mopars of the last big show of 2022 - MCACN!

Stay healthy, stay safe, live life and until next month, I'll see you on MoprTv! ☘