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**JUNE
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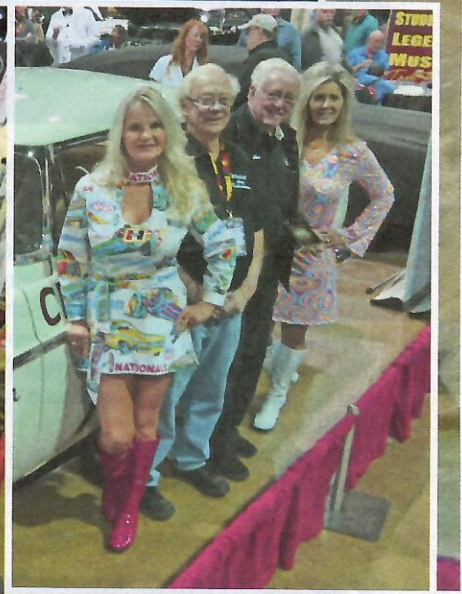
ATHLON PUBLICATIONS

FROM O'HARE

TO THERE

MCACN invites a huge wing car collection and a whole lot more to its winter wonderland.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GEOFF STUNKARD



The highlight for the purists was the debut of the very first Chrysler 300 courtesy Mike McCandless and Whitehall Restorations out of Massachusetts. This was the car that set all the records on the sand of Daytona that year. Fresh from the shop, Mike was unable to attend the event, so father Herb and restorer Tom White valiantly stood in for him with the ladies, Brenda Walls and Joy Curran.



Of all the stuff in the Norm's display, from '65 Hemicars to vans and funny cars, one of the neatest things was this scale dealership model with a plethora of Johnny Lighting Mopar machines around and inside it.

THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID about "easy access." Hey, ever work around big-tube headers on a 440 A-body? You know what we mean. Event access is the same way; a cheap hotel an hour from the show is still a PITA (no, not bread, Pain In The A\$\$!). The biggest thing about coming to MCACN (Muscle Car & Corvette Nationals) is that you take the shuttle from Chicago O'Hare International Airport for about 5 minutes and you are both near the hotel and the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center where the show is hosted. Bringing a car? Oops, back on the Dan Ryan, but we digress...
...and segway into the biggest indoor show event on the yearly calendar, which chose to highlight Daytonas and SuperBirds this time around! Not just a couple, but as the primary theme in the main aisle walkway, in



The Brothers Collection sponsored the special Wings Over America aisle, and leading off the 'Bird side was Larry Lindley's land speed car, which took and held the B/Production record for many years, with a best record of 217 MPH. The restored car is now owned by Troy Hawkes, shows 2,586 miles since new and has its factory Hemi under the hood.

Manager Bob Ashton grins mildly while an elated Ralph Gilles hams for the camera very late Thursday night. Ralph had just driven by himself from Michigan in a raging northern Indiana snow storm to get his carbon fiber '68 Charger we featured a few issues ago to the event. So, yeah, he was a little happy.

the Wellborn Museum-sponsored Aero Warrior area, around Mecum's big auction display, in the Vintage Certification area and even in the Barn Finds section. There were a few Charger 500s tossed in as well. These wings were not run-of-the-mill versions, either, as the prototype of all Daytonas was there, as was the Bonneville land speed SuperBird and never-seen cars that came down from Canada and elsewhere.

So what wing was most popular? A wreck! The orange SuperBird that showed up upside down on Youtube after Hurricane Ian hit Ft. Myers was the highlight of the Magnum shop's area, who will





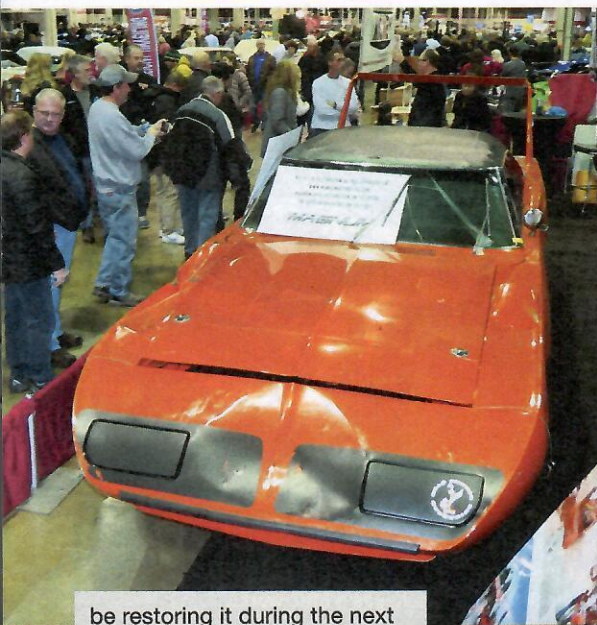
In the Mr. Norm's display was this very cool Demon 340 GSS with a cool story by owner Eric Johnson, whose dad bought the car new. In the late 1970s, the factory 340 engine blew and a 440 tunnel ram mill was installed. His dad sold the car due to a divorce and Eric rode in it just one time, for a 2-block-long burnout that very day, when he was 6. Against all odds, Eric chanced upon it in 2018 and bought it back. It's still in original sheetmetal, with refreshed paint and its changes from family days left intact. Just in case you preferred to see an original one, the '71 Demon GSS with 340 Six Pack from Mark and Christina Aletto was right next to it, with a slew of factory paperwork.



You want cool? How about a Hemi Charger 500. Cooler? Kept by the dealer from new until 1989, and has been with the present owner, Jeff Lammers, ever since. Coolest? This car has never been registered or licensed, and was in the Vintage Certification area. It was awarded Reference honors and later sold at Barrett for \$341K.



Cars in the Pure Stock drag race area were led off by Carolyn Stroub. Yes, how she drives both the 440-CI '69 R/T and the '72 Duster 340 if they meet in the final together, we do not know. We do know that she says both have original paint.



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be restoring it during the next year or two. Lots of selfies were made with that one!

"Yo, man, that wing thing just ain't my bag," said...nobody ever. Seriously, not everyone is smitten with all aero specials all the time, and manager Bob Ashton knows it. So there was also a special Mr. Norm's memorial section, a Kramer Automotive-sponsored Legends of Super Stock section with mostly Mope iron, a special Maple Leaf Muscle Canadian car display, a Class of '72 showcase, the Wellborn group, many cars done by the latest shops, and a first-ever Malaise-Era Muscle for post 1974 models that even included the prototype Mirada featured elsewhere in this issue. More Mopar iron was in the back and rear display areas, and all this made this for a pretty amazing one-time-only car collection (it'll be all different next year).

You could write a book and still have a hard time showing everything that happens here, so we had to edit our 1800 photos down to a mere 20. Meanwhile, we know that Mr. Ashton & Co. are already planning for 2023. There will always be something you'd like to see no matter what the theme is, and the airport, of course, is called international for a reason. Come fly with us... (with apologies to 'ol Frank Blue Eyes!)

After its starring role in the YouTube disaster video Bonita Springs, FL—Plymouth Superbird Totaled In Hurricane Ian Storm Surge September 29, 2022 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTArX4cwQwQ>), Mark Sekula and the crew at Magnum Restorations agreed to bring it back to life for a future MCACN debut. Lots of people came by to see the devastation.

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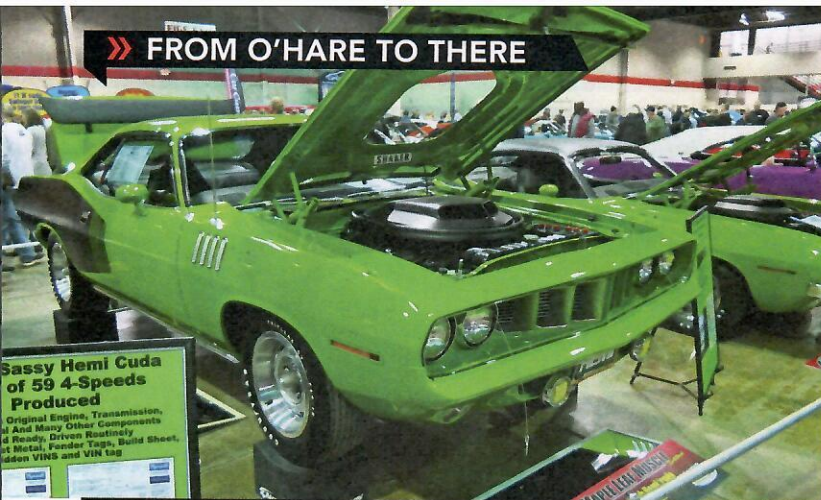
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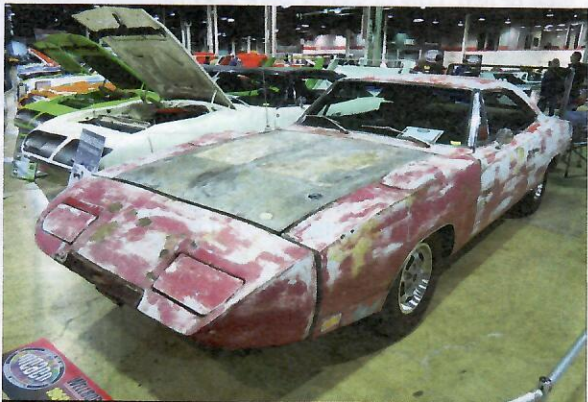
No MCACN event is complete without a slew of E-bodies. Several shops debuted examples, but we went with this Sassy Grass Green '71 Hemi Cuda owned by Barry Boyles in the Maple Leaf Muscle display. It's one of 59 4-speeds built that final year, with a lot of docs and a mile-long list of options. "The grass is always greener on the other side?" In this case, yes...



In the Barn Finds section was this Formula S 340 Barracuda convertible that is believed to have been used to prototype some of the model changes for 1969 season. The original engine block was with it. Needs a little work...



In the Class of '72 Invitational were two 340-powered Dodges, the Ram-charger-equipped Charger Rallye of Mark Young and the Challenger Rallye of Mark Obenour, both from Ohio.



Lots to see in the Wellborn Museum aero car display as well, and we needed a Daytona. We know originality matters, and Dan LeClerc brought his 440 Daytona down from Quebec. You know, it might buff out (to bare metal.)



We'd already picked, but our second choice for celeb pick would have been the old Jack Ferris Motors '67 RO Plymouth that Charlie and Denise Caldwell debuted here. Driven on the UDRA circuit by the late Jack Thomas, the rising sun paint theme has not been on its sheetmetal in a half-century. You can the real Sox & Martin car behind it, and, past that is another row of '67 Mopars, which included the notorious Silver Bullet.

Rick E talks about doing grille blackout. This SuperBird in Lemon Twist was on display thanks to Jeff and Brent Kultgen of Minnesota and showed OEM blackout spray gun creativity.

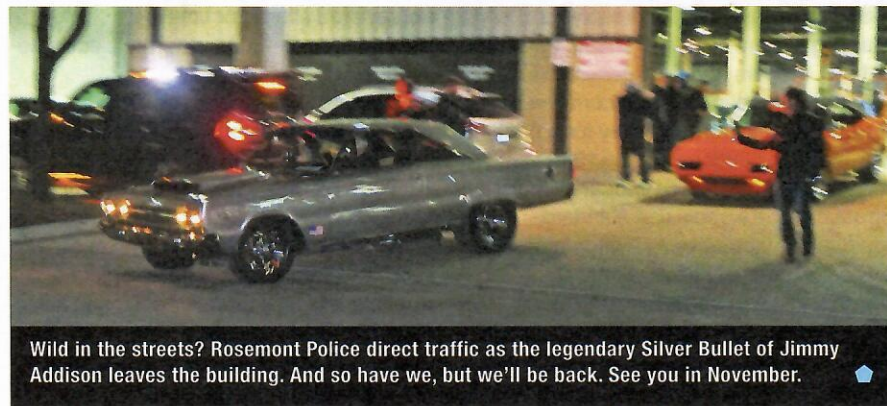




Leading of this row of Mopes in the Malaise Era Muscle was the Aztec Gold 1975 Road Runner of Harold Schutz of Indiana. These cars and those seen behind it are proving to be quite scarce today and are growing in interest.



In the Kramer Automotive display "Legends of Super Stock", we gave our Celebrity Pick to the incredible 1965 A990 Plymouth Hemi drag car that Steve Atwell recently found. Just prepped and repainted by Hemi Eddie Strzelcecki (pronounced: "Ed"), this car is otherwise completely original and had been parked in storage almost since new.



Wild in the streets? Rosemont Police direct traffic as the legendary Silver Bullet of Jimmy Addison leaves the building. And so have we, but we'll be back. See you in November. ◆



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