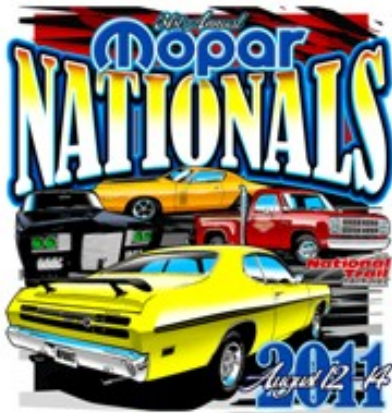


# MOPAR NATIONALS

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## PRESS RELEASE, September 2011

Dearborn, Michigan -- The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Mopar Nationals - Chrysler Car Club Convention for the most part, dodged the weather bullet. With weeks of record 90 degree plus temps proceeding the event, when it came time for the Mopars to rumble into town, the temps settled down to more comfortable high 70's low 80's, but with the forecast of thunderstorms. Mother Nature blessed us again with great weather when it was needed, but our luck did finally run out on Sunday evening when the finals were about to be run. The sky's broke loose and we decided to throw in the towel and just split the winnings as the radar did not look all that great to get the racing completed. All in all, the event was a success as many new cars and people attended the Nats for the first time along with the many loyal supporters. In the numbers tally, the general Swap Meet, Car Corral and Manufacturer Midway was down just a little. Not all that bad considering the economy. The car count was basically the same, down a few racers. Spectator count was almost a repeat of last year

too. The die-hard Mopar Enthusiasts were in attendance and in force. The quality of cars both in the Judging and on the Fun field was at a higher level this year. The "Nats" continues to be the premiere Chrysler event each year, and the hot bed for companies to show their new offerings. This was again evident with all the new offerings for the Chargers and Challengers. What started out as a drop top edition for the Challenger has turned into complete car versions equipped with super high performance mods and changes to bodywork as well. Entries of these cars (Chargers, Challengers, Magnum's and 300's) was up again this year filling up the reserved area called "Modern Muscle". Over 170 Challengers, Chargers, 300's etc., were parked in the area with every color built to date represented, and there were more on the fun field. The event was again covered by all Mopar and Car Buff Magazines; Mopar Muscle, Mopar Action, Muscle Car Review, Mopar Collectors Guide and a few of the International magazines. We saw the writers from abroad returning again this year to cover the event and do specific interviews and car photo spreads. Full Throttle Video returned to film the 31<sup>st</sup> annual event for a soon to be released new Mopar Nationals DVD coupled with their previous Mopar Madness, Plum Crazy, and Mopar or No Car Videos. The Mopar Nationals attracts Chrysler enthusiasts from all over North American, Hawaii, Canada, Norway, Germany, England, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Brazil and a few other countries. It's great to hear all the various accents when talking to the enthusiasts. These participants have to travel to events like the Nats to purchase parts for their cars, as they are either non-existent over where they live or 10 times more expensive. Also, they have been buying up the cars in the USA to bring back home where "Mopars" are a much desired brand.

This year's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Mopar Nationals celebrated the tribute to the Plymouth Duster. Over 200 qualifying vehicles were pre-entered with most parking in the reserved Tribute area on the Judged Show side of the track. The rest were running in



the Drag Race program where we saw an increased amount of A-Body Dusters competing this year. The cars in the tribute area were parked by year/body style. The display featured the original 1970-76 Duster A-Body which was all Duster and not just a trim package. For the revived Duster name plate used for a trim package available on the 1979-1980 Plymouth Volare coupe (F-body), then the front wheel drive 1985-87

Plymouth Turismo (L-body), and finally, the 1992-1994 V6-powered Plymouth Sundance coupes and hatchbacks (P-bodies). These cars signified the bread and butter of the Plymouth Division for compact car class. Available in three different slant six versions and two V-8's, for a rather paltry sum of money one could be driving a Duster which by today's standards is a midsize car. The 340/360 version with its light weight proved to be the potent muscle car and very affordable.

The Judged Car Show, Manufacturers Midway, Fun Field, Swap, Car Corral, Model Car Contest, Children's Match Box Car Race and Coloring contest, Special Tribute displays were placed as much as possible in their own individual areas. New this year was a larger roped off area for Fun Field participants making it easier to find an open parking space on Saturday when it's wall to wall cars everywhere. It worked out excellent as we heard many compliments, with the participants parking next to other fun field cars and having to deal with the race car trailers. The Manufacturers Midway again saw some new companies that have broken into the Mopar restoration hobby and were showing off their new products. Classic Industries and National Parts Depot, and a host of other smaller companies now

offering restoration parts for the older Mopars. There was also more new smaller companies displaying high performance upgrades for the Modern Mopar Muscle. On display at the Mopar Nats registration tent was the all new 2011 Dodge Ram 2500 Long Horn package, complete with its cowboy interior; the original fully functional Green Hornet 1967 TV series car and Rodney Chapman's DustAAR as a symbol for the Duster tribute. The Nats also featured a TECH Seminar on Friday and Saturday on early Chrysler ignition systems as well as Dealership diagnostic test equipment. Joe Gilardi who has over 30 years of being a Chrysler Master Technician was the speaker and also answered questions on a variety of troubleshooting questions. He even was doing carburetor tune ups on a number of cars. The only guy that can get a Carter AVS and Thermo-Quad to run like they are suppose to. Next year, addition seminars are being planned.

Car Collector Todd Warner brought out some of his ultra rare iron. He brought out the '72 Sox & Martin/Herb McCandless Pro Stock Hemi Demon, the '68 Sox & Martin Super Stock, Hemi Barracuda B029 car, '70 Dick Landy Super Stock Hemi Challenger and the '68 Dick Landy Super Stock Hemi Dart LO23 car making a great nostalgic race car display with the original cars themselves.

Denny Guest of South Oak Dodge also brought out some of his vary rare collection. This year his theme was the A990 Hemi's and Max Wedge Cars. With his ultra rare 1963 & 1964 Super Stock Dodges and Plymouths along the A990 Hemi powered vehicles, proved to be quite the hit among the attendees. Naturally, there was a slew of new Dodge Challenger and Charger customs. Mr. Norm's garage had on display their new 2011 Charger GTS model along with their Dart and other offerings of both the new Challenger and Cuda versions, limited Sox & Martin themes to Richard Petty's own personal customization of the new Challenger. Super Charged, Turbo Charged, or just built to the hilt, there are a host of performance upgrades now available for these cars. Sheet metal parts that were never thought possible are now being offered through a number of vendors. An all new Dodge Challenger B-I-W is now available. Full Throttle Video, South Oak Dodge, Bob Malcom C-J-D, Indy Cylinder Head, Trailer World, Jegs, Passon Performance, Mopar Muscle & Mopar Action, Classic Industries, Mancini Muscle Car Restorations and Year One were all in attendance and helped out in sponsoring the event. In addition, numerous other after-market high performance and restoration parts and accessories were on display. It's truly amazing what is now available for the Mopar crowd. Vendor's sales were good again this year as the Mopar Nationals is known as the place to go to purchase that much sought after Mopar ride, or find that elusive part that you have spent years searching for. In the Car Corral, over 300 cars were offered up for sale, with a lot of great prices as sellers continue to reduce the price to a more realistic value than in year's past. Sales were on par with last year. If you're in the market for a muscle car, the time has never been better to purchase.

With the official start of the event on Friday, the Mopar Nationals Judging Staff went to work on over 250 cars that were entered into the 33 Judging categories as well as the highly sought after Mopar Nationals Gold Certification. It goes without saying now that the competition has raised the "bar" for what it takes to gather the top honors in the individual classes. The amount of work and attention to detail is very demanding, but when you win at the Mopar Nats, then you know your car is



truly something very special. In some of the more popular classes, the difference between 1<sup>st</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> were a mere two points. The Mopar Nationals is one of only a few shows held nationwide that actually have experienced Judges signed on to evaluate the vehicles in the various classes, documenting their appearance, originality or quality of modifications performed. No slight task, as over 60 Judges are assigned to this huge responsibility. They take a lot of heat as obviously judging some ones car is a very personal thing. The OE Certification that Mopar Nationals created, had some outstanding entries this year. Mike Mancini of North Kingston, RI. received a

Gold and Best in Show for his 1970 Plymouth Duster. An awesome car and a tribute car to boot! Wally Horodnyk, of Etobicoke, Ontario also scored Gold with his 1969.5 Road Runner A12. Attention to detail is always the key to winning, and these cars



showed they are in a class by themselves. Two other cars originally scheduled to be in OE were not completed on time to make the show.

The Mopar Nationals "Young Guns" display of show and Drag race cars always offers a few surprises. The "Young Guns" format features four (4) individual judging classes as well as a bracket class in the Racing portion of the event. The requirements are that the participant must be 25 and under, and to a great extent has restored or modified their own car. No new cars (unless modified) or unrestored cars are eligible. Separating this class from the others allows for a more level playing field for the young entrants that more often than not are cash limited on their project versus some of the high priced adult entries. It also serves to help develop that father/son relationship and pass on the

camaraderie that is important. When you look at the current young generation, we are seeing less and less interest in cars as

compared to past generations, so showcasing the Young Gun talent with American Muscle is the right thing to do and get other young kids involved in the hobby. First place in the Original class went to Jason Carsey, of Waverly, WV. with his 1968 Super Bee. Jason also took the Best in Show Young Guns trophy. Winner in the modified class was Drew Sills, of Florence, MS. with his 1971 Plymouth Duster. In the Young Guns Drag Racing class, it was the quicker reaction time of Brent Miles, of Red Springs, NC. in his Challenger running a [12.32@105.34](#) to beat Woody Kilgore, of Columbus, OH. in his 1985 Dodge Daytona, running 11.913@110.

This year's show featured the debut of the SRT High Performance Tour. Starting from the Chrysler Museum on Friday, the tour made the Mopar Nationals its first stop on it's across America journey. It started with four drivers—plucked



from the ranks of the SRT driving academy—taking off on what's sure to be an epic road trip. Each member of the team is driving one member of the 2012 SRT family for the entire tour, with the quartet showing off the vehicles, answering

questions, offering SRT apparel and merchandise, and providing plenty of Youtube ([www.YouTube.com/SRT](http://www.YouTube.com/SRT)) and Twitter (@driveSRT) updates along the way. The SRT High Performance Tour is scheduled to make its final stop in November at the annual Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) show. They even cruised at the Mopar Super Cruise in downtown Heath (and survived with no tickets). With

high tech and social media becoming more of the norm, the Red Line Dodge blog was in attendance interviewing participants and shooting pictures of the mighty Mopars, and blogging all weekend long. Check them out at [www.redlinedodge.com](http://www.redlinedodge.com).

Before we knew it, 2pm was here and it was time for the world Renowned Mopar Nationals Burn-Out Contest to begin. This portion of the event always attracts the spectators as well as participants to the stands. Sponsored by Bob Malcom Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep located in Peebles, Ohio, Bob and his wife Sharon are huge Mopar fans with a large collection of ultra rare Mopars, which consists of no less than seven "Wing Cars". Friday's burn-out contest was entered heavily by trucks. The winner for Friday's Burn-Out contest was Mike Kollatz, of Valley City, OH. in his 1989 Dodge Dakota, Terry Skaggs, of Victor, WV. and his 1970 Cuda took second with Aaron Hall, of Austinburg, OH. and his 1989 Dakota taking third place. Saturday's burn out results were local boy and last year winner Mike Drone of Columbus, OH., with his 1972 Dodge Monaco equipped with a 413 taking the first place honors and in a first, the Mopar Nationals featured a BURN-OFF for the second place award. In side by side burnouts and the spectators as well as participants screaming out their votes for a winner, literally when the smoke cleared it was still a tie between Clint Lightner, of Fort Wayne, IN. in his 70 Road Runner and last year's winner Will Roth, of Valley City, OH. in his 1978 D150 440. The Mopar Nats decided to award 1<sup>st</sup> place prize money to all three contestants!

The Friday night cruisin' scene was split between Brice Road and Heath again. Heath has gained in popularity so much so though, that almost all the action was on Rt. 79. Heath and Newark teamed up together again to host the Super Cruise and tie it in with the Music & Wings festival. The streets were lined with Mopar enthusiasts from around the country as they cheered wildly for their favorite rides, as tires were barked, smoked and burned to the approval of the crowds. By 11 PM the local enforcers started to close down the streets and let the participants get some needed sleep for the next day of nonstop activities.

Saturday is the first big day of the Drag Racing program. Anything MOPAR/AMC is allowed to run. You get a chance to see it all, and why not, with over \$20,000 dollars up for grabs... it stands to reason there is going to be some serious competition. This year's program featured classes offered in Full Throttle TV Quick 16 and Super Pro, South Oak Dodge Pro and Street, South Oak Dodge Hemi, Mopar Muscle Young Gun, Indy Cylinder Head Nostalgic Super Stock,



Passon Performance Stick Shift and Dodge Viper ET. Saturday's racing started off with qualifying for the Nostalgic Shoot-Out, Stick Shift Class and the Dodge Viper's along with Trophy class. The Passon stick shift class made its debut five years ago now as a tribute to Ronnie Sox and continues the tradition. Over 625 individual participants made runs down the track in all, for time trials, qualifying, or just the fun car field doing a pass to see what their car will run. There were some pretty impressive times being recorded, and some records! How about an 8 second club that was

created by Tim Barth running out of the Mr. Norm's garage with his "Loco Challenger". It's a 2009 Dodge Challenger body equipped with a 6.1L based new aged Hemi (sporting 406 CI), with the addition of a couple turbo chargers, that the last time out dyno'd at 1521 HP and over 1000 ft-lbs of torque. Even with a shaky launch, the car turned an 8.65 @ 174.84 MPH and his 60 foot time was off by .2 seconds. Low 8's for sure when he has it completely dialed in. Congrats to the Mr. Norm's garage guys. The day finished off with the finals in the Trophy Bracket, Indy Cylinder Head Nostalgic Super Stock classes, Passon Performance Stick Shift class as well as the Viper Drag class. In the Viper Class it was Paul Suloff, of Akron, OH. that won in his 1996 GTS, against the red light start of Jack Bene of Cleveland, OH., in his 1997 GTS. The South Oak Dodge Trophy Class saw an all Michigan final with Daniel Austin, of Diamondale, MI. in his 1967 Barracuda, [13.419@90.37](#) beating out Scott Morris, of Waterford, MI. in his 1970 Dart, [10.397@121.55](#). The Passon Performance Stick Shift Class saw Scott Bourrell, of Cedar Lake, IN. ('64 330) – [19.388@53.70](#) win over Greg Lorsbach, of W. Chesterfield, NH. ('66 Belvedere) due to his red light start. The Indy Cylinder Head Nostalgia SS Class Eliminations are listed in the results section. Hot action and wheelstands were the norm for the day.

The Mopar Nationals is a non-stop, action packed weekend for the Mopar Enthusiast. Saturday is also the day for the other Mopar related activities. The Mopar Model Car Nationals for the big & little kids with trophies awarded in 12 classes based on three age groups. The event is sponsored by Auto Know, of Utica, Michigan. The amount of time, effort, dedication and sheer enthusiasm these modelers put into their cars is just unbelievable. While the judging in the model car contest is going on, so is something for the real little kids. The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Match Box Race was held where



participants age 10 and under select a Match Box/Hot Wheels car and run it in a ladder elimination style drag race. Side by side eliminations just like the big guys are doing on the strip. You can hear the engine roar in the background as the kids (and adults) get all excited as their car is placed on the starting line. The children get to keep the car whether they win or lose along with trophies for the winners. With 27 entries this year, when the eliminations were done it was Craig Lucas, of Webster, KY. Beating out Kirklin Troup, of Pickerington, OH. The Mopar Nationals also offers a children's coloring contest as part of the day's activities where kids 9 and under get the chance to color the Mopar Nationals Event T-shirt Logo. 22 artists (Mopar kids) participated,

with the winner being 8 year old Tehia Dres, second place went to Lynnlee Voge, Age 7 and 3<sup>rd</sup> to Patrick Wethington, Age 9

Saturday night's highlight was once again the Heath/Newark Cruise held in conjunction with the Wings & Music Festival. The headline act was Rare Earth. The weather was great and all in attendance had a good time. If you were not at the festival, participants could be found cruising the boulevard into the late hours of the night. It's really nice of both towns to support the event, as well as see all the support of the local Police departments and their tolerance to us Mopars".



Sunday's action started out with the final time trials for the various drag classes and everyone else getting ready for the awards ceremony with all the Concours Show & OE Winners Parade. This included the awarding of the Best of Show Car Trophy going to Mike Mancini with his 1970 Plymouth Duster and the Best of Show Truck being awarded this year to Stephen Owens, of Albany, OH. with his 1957 D100. Mopar Muscle's "Young Gun" Best in Class was won by Jason Carsey, of Waverly, WV. with his '68 Superbee. All the other individual judged show class winners are listed in the Mopar Nationals Results page.

After the Award ceremony was completed, it was off to the racing eliminations. With the National Anthem song by our very own Karen Vandervelden as in year's past, and marks her last year singing live (we have a DVD) as she has decided to retire. She will be missed but she has trained a competent staff to handle her duties. The air was then filled with the sweet sounds of Mopar Muscle firing up and echoing throughout the track for the first round of Quick 16. With Full Throttle TV cameras rolling, as they were all weekend long to document the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Mopar Nationals the smoke clouds started to rise during the all important burn-outs. Next up was Indy Cylinder



Heads "Nostalgic Shoot-Out", followed by the South Oak Dodge New Generation Hemi class. Winners in these and all the other classes are listed on the results page. As the end of the day approached, the last race cars in Super Pro, Pro, Nostalgic and Quick 16 made their way to the staging lanes in preparation for the finals. As luck would have it, the perfect weather finally gave out and rain started to fall. Luckily it was not too long of a delay so the track was dried and VHT was re-applied. If we had to do over maybe the additional 20 minute delay to VHT the track should have been forgone. As the first two cars made their way to the starting line, unfortunately, no sooner were the burnouts done that the sky's opened up again. This time it poured hard for about 15 minutes. It was decided that the radar did not look good and as daylight was waning, the payouts would just

be split by the remaining class competitors. The final results are attached. Congratulations to the winners, especially the Pro Classification as this class takes the most rounds to be crowned the victor.

With now 31 years of continually setting the standard of Mopar shows, the Mopar Nationals is still the event to attend for the Mopar enthusiast and we continue to strive to improve on it. It's a MOPAR HAPPENING! Everything that a die-hard Mopar fan could ever want to see, hear or buy is there. From 1940 Dodge's and Chrysler antiques, to the new modern performance machines of the 2000's and beyond. **Next year is our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mopar Nationals with many displays and attractions planned. Mark your calendars now as August 10-12, 2012 at NTR as the place to be and be a part of the Ultimate Mopar Event. Look for upcoming details on the Mopar Nationals website, [www.moparnats.org](http://www.moparnats.org) or [www.gotmopar.com](http://www.gotmopar.com) soon.**

**For 2012 sponsorship opportunities, contact us at the address below.**



**Many thanks to the sponsors of the 2011 Mopar Nationals!!!**

**Full Throttle TV, South Oak Dodge, Bob Malcom C-P-D, Classic Industries, Michael Mancini's Muscle Car Restorations, Mopar Muscle Magazine, Indy Cylinder Head, Passon Performance, Mopar Action Magazine, Trailer World, Jegs, Auto-Know Hobby Shop & the Licking County Convention Bureau.**

**Make sure you patronize these companies as they support your hobby!**

The individual winners in all the classes of the various events are listed on the attached pages.

**FOR ADDITIONAL PRESS INFORMATION, PHOTOS, etc., CONTACT:**

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**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mopar Nationals**

**August 10 - 12, 2012**

**National Trail Raceway, Columbus, Ohio**

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