

**Tennessee  
Valley**



**Mopar  
Club**

# Tennessee Valley Mopar Club Newsletter February 2009

Tennessee Valley Mopar Club, P.O. Box 2042  
Huntsville, AL 35804

E-mail: [tvmoparclub@yahoo.com](mailto:tvmoparclub@yahoo.com)

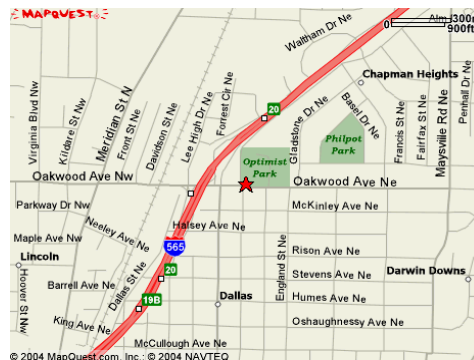
Website: <http://www.tvmoparclub.com>

Newsletter Editor: [glover4350@bellsouth.net](mailto:glover4350@bellsouth.net)

## In Memoriam of Chris Louden

The next meeting is Saturday, **21 February 2009 at The Optimist Club, from 08:00-10:00a.m.** Attached is a map showing the location of the club.

Come on out and join us on the 21st for our February general membership meeting. This month we have several topics to cover. First, Jud is going to lead us in a discussion regarding the upcoming Cruise-In season. The days and times will most likely remain the same but the locations are up for discussion. Next, we will discuss our now open Vice President position as we give up George Zoller in his move to Detroit. Lennie will also spend time discussing top end work he has been performing on his 440, complete with pictures. Additionally, we will be remembering Chris.



703 Oakwood Ave, Huntsville, AL, 256-427-5775

If you are on the Memorial Parkway, exit on Oakwood going east. The Optimist Recreation Center is the 2<sup>nd</sup> left past Andrew Jackson Way.

## **Chris Loudon 1966-2009**

News struck earlier last week that one of our own Mopar members, Christopher Loudon, had passed away. We were all saddened by the news as it came as a surprise to everyone. 'Chris' as everybody knew him as was an all-around awesome guy. His favorite hobby was cars - Mopars in general. He was extremely knowledgeable in the Mopar scene, and always offered a helping hand when needed.

I myself used to bug Chris all the time as we shared the same interest - Dukes and The General Lee. He always cracked up laughing when I mentioned "Hey, when are you going to start working on your 73' Charger?" as he was always focused on getting his 1966 Charger pieced back together. Not to mention the countless times we swapped pictures of our projects thru email.

According to Chris, one of his most beloved cars was the Dirty Mary Crazy Larry 1969 Charger...He always dreamed of one day being able to own a replica of that famous Mopar. Well, as sad as it may seem down here to us, I'm sure he's up there ripping and roaring in his new car. You will be truly missed, Chris, by both your family and friends. Hopefully, we'll meet again someday.

Jud Hudson

The car community lost a good friend on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 when Christopher D. Loudon passed away suddenly. I met Chris in the Huntsville Plastic Modelers over a decade ago and he was an active member and helper/organizer for the former Rocket City Model Car Club. Chris recently told me that he was affected by watching the movie Dirty Harry, Crazy Mary as a small child with his mother. If you know the movie, you remember the yellow Charger. His love for Chargers and MOPARs colored his whole life. Chris had two ('72 and '67) and a Hemi pickup which he cherished. Chris was a long time model builder and member of the Tennessee Valley MOPAR Club. Apart from owning and driving MOPARs he personally ran the model car contests at the annual MOPAR Show-and-Go for a number of years. He worked at the Huntsville Dodge dealer for many years and was an incredible source of information on all things MOPAR and a wonderful source of information to the club membership. His model room contained hundreds of beautifully built cars and kids and many autographed models and memorabilia from the Petty family, all the stars of the Dukes of Hazzard TV show, Bill Greenburg and a host of other NASCAR and MOPAR figures.

Chris and I had recently gotten together to check out the slot car tracks in Decatur and Tanner. One of my slot car collecting friends Dan Carrol of Decatur told me this story about Chris when he heard the news about Chris. It really tells you how active Chris was in the model car shows and clubs in the area.

“Yes Pete, I remember Chris now, a very long time ago, it seems almost a lifetime ago. I had a Model Car Club that had several members. We did shows & won some trophy's etc. It was called "Models Inc" and was strictly static models. At one point somebody made off with several model car collections. I took out an ad in Scale Auto & offered a \$200.00 reward for info leading to the finding of my/our model kits/parts. Well, it was Chris that contacted me. He had all of our stuff that he had bought from some dudes at the Atlanta show for almost nothing. He said that he knew it was all of my stuff pretty much as he had seen it over here at my place years ago. Chris would not take any of the \$200.00 reward even though I insisted!!! He would not. A hell of a man in my book, in fact, Chris told me that he bought the items because he sensed that they were stolen from me & my co-collectors, He KNEW that WE would never sell these items for such a cheap price!!! When Chris returned the materials, that's the last time that I saw him. He was a good Man & I'm sorry to hear of his demise. Yeah, I remember Chris. He was a good person in my book...Dan”

Pete Shreeves

Chris was a great Mopar man and was good for our hobby. I got to know Chris over the past year or so and grew to admire and regard him for his excellent knowledge of Mopars and Chrysler Corporation history. He always greeted me with a smile and was always willing to chat and speak Mopar at any time. He also devoted the extra time to share pictures of his Charger he was restoring. I frequently used his pictures in the Project Pages of this Newsletter as well as some old Chrysler archive photos. I will miss Chris and hope that he touched the lives of all of you in some way, as he did mine. God speed Chris.

Bob



## January Meeting

Folks, you missed a good meeting last month. Doug Eagan led us in another super discussion on building Mopar engines. If you missed it, you missed out on an excellent opportunity to learn something about the engines that power our old classics. Got something you want to learn about? Something on your mind that's been bothering you about your ride? Need some assistance on a tech issue to get your ride ready for cruise season? Well, just ask!!

We are currently looking for more presentations to bring to you monthly and ask that if you have ideas or items you would like to bring to the floor, please let us know. As usual, we will strive to bring you informative and illustrative Mopar topics.

## *Cruise-In Corner* **Upcoming Cruise-In Dates:**



We have suspended our monthly Cruise-In for winter. But, as mentioned above, we will be discussing our upcoming cruise-in season at this month's meeting. So, come on out and give us your thoughts and ideas on where you would like to cruise this year. We will resume this spring when the weather warms up. In the meantime, keep working on those rides and get them ready for the 2009 show and cruise-in season.

## Website

A huge "thank you" and "congratulations" to Judson Hudson for the tremendous work he has done on our website. Jud spent a lot of time and effort over the past year revamping and fine tuning our site. This week Jud was finally provided the official "Show & Go" pictures from the 2008 show and has posted them. Additionally, we now have video links on the site. If you have not visited the TVMC website lately, do so. I believe you will be satisfied with the new look, new feel and lots of forums in which to participate. If you have events or other things that need to go on the TVMC website, contact Jud and he will be happy to post it for you. Jud and John have done an outstanding job with the TVMC Website and are in need of information to post. You can also buy your 10<sup>th</sup> Annual "Show & Go" t-shirt off the web. Check it out.

## **2009 TVMC Events**

- **21 February 2009 8:00 am General Membership Meeting at the Optimist Club**
- **2 March 2009 5:30 pm Officer meeting at L/M**
- **21 March 2009 8:00 am General Membership Meeting at the Optimist Club**
- **7 April 2009 5:30 pm Officer meeting at L/M**
- **18 April 2009 8:00 am General Membership Meeting at the Optimist Club**
- **5 May 2009 5:30 pm Officer meeting at L/M**
- **16 May 2009 8:00 am General Membership Meeting at the Optimist Club**

## **2009 Regional Events**

**For those of you who are ready for an early show year, here are some Regional Events for you to attend!**

### **February 15, 2009**

2:30 pm Fox Network

Daytona 500, route for your favorite Mopar driver!

Go A.J.!!

### **February 28 - March 1, 2009**

8 am to 5 pm

Annual Alabama Antique & Classic Car Auction, Swap Meet & Car Corral

Birmingham Fairgrounds

Info: Bill Chapman 205-426-5256

### **March 21, 2009**

8 am – 1 pm

Downtown Piedmont, AL

Piedmont Throttle Kings 3rd annual car show

Info: Steve Robertson, 256-447-3041

### **April 3-5, 2009**

Hunter's Auto Expo

TN State Fairgrounds

Nashville, Tennessee

Info: <http://www.hunterscustom.com/Hunters%20Expo.htm>

**April 18, 2009**

9 am to 3 pm

Cars and Camouflage Annual AER Charity car show

Benefiting Army Emergency Relief (AER) and Honor Flight

Sponsored by & at Bridge Street Town Center, Huntsville, Alabama - new location

Hosted by Vets with Vettes & Corvette Owners

open to all special rides - all makes, models & years - and motorcycles

Best Paint, Best Interior, Best Motor and Mayor's Choice

50/50, silent auction, door prizes

Pre-registration by April 10th is \$15 / day of the show is \$20

to pre-register you may go to the website below & pay thru Paypal

[www.vetswithvettes.us](http://www.vetswithvettes.us)

or may send a check payable to Vets with Vettes to:

Richard Lambruschi

1102 Kelly Spring Road

Harvest, AL 35749

**April 25, 2009**

8 am to 3 pm

Athens on the Square event

Sponsored by Spirit of Athens

\$4,000 in cash and prizes

most stores & shops around the square to be open

Info: Bland Allen 256-603-1227

[www.carsonthesquare.com](http://www.carsonthesquare.com)

**May 2, 2009**

9 am to 2 pm

Pineview Baptist Church

4th Annual Car & Motorcycle Show

5614 Highway 53 in Harvest

open to all special rides

\$10 registration fee

proceeds to Pineview Baptist Church Youth Ministries

Top 3 awards in each class, as well as a Pastor's pick, youth choice & best car club

participation

Info: Steve Burch 721-0557 or [steve.patti@yahoo.com](mailto:steve.patti@yahoo.com)

(rain date May 30th)

**May 2, 2009**

10 am to 2 pm

2nd Annual Vibe Custom CTC

"Show It, Don't Blow It" car, truck & bike show

Limestone Flea Market, Madison, Alabama

Registration fee \$15

\$5 of each entry going to wounded soldiers; also collecting up-to-date magazines for the soldiers

Info: Ryan Bahney 256-972-6003; email [nitez@vibecustomsctc.org](mailto:nitez@vibecustomsctc.org)

pre-registration: <http://www.vibecustomsctc.org/events>

**May 2, 2009**

10 am

Kruse 2nd Annual Classic Car Auction

Von Braun Center, Huntsville, Alabama

general admission \$10, parking \$5, bidders register free

[www.kruse.com](http://www.kruse.com)

**May 2, 2009**

8 am to 2 pm

Spring Fling VIII

Crossroads Cruisers Car Show

Downtown Oneonta, Alabama

Info: David Copeland 205-466-3596 or [www.crossroads-cruisers.com](http://www.crossroads-cruisers.com)

**2009 National Events**

8 March, Hollywood, FL

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Florida Mopar Nationals

954-920-7096

[floridamopar@bellsouth.net](mailto:floridamopar@bellsouth.net)

25 April, Mobile, AL

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Mopars at the Battleship

Larry Jordan 251-653-5154

20-22 March, Las Vegas, NV

Mopars at the Strip

[www.moparsatthestrip.com](http://www.moparsatthestrip.com)

## Product Page

This month we feature more cool stuff for your Mopar.



Auto Metal Direct has reproduced these neat hood inserts for 69 Road runners and GTXs. These premium die-cast inserts come with all hardware and gaskets for assembly and are EDP coated.



Another offering from AMD is this Jack Bracket, sold in pairs, for 71-73 B Body cars. Contact Auto Metal Direct for more details on these two offerings and many other Mopar parts for your restoration.

“Used from autometaldirect.com website and does not reflect endorsement by TVMC”.



## A Touch of MOPAR History

Provided Courtesy of Chris Louden



## **Editor's Corner**

Hello again folks!! Well, winter IS STILL officially here and instead of spitting ice and snow we are now dodging hail stones and tornados. As I write this, we are bracing for our first possible round of severe weather scheduled to pass through our area on Wednesday morning. But, after we get through this we are looking for a good weekend to celebrate Valentines Day. So, don't forget the chocolates and flowers!

It's time again for membership renewals. Please send in your \$20.00 annual dues. If you missed the 31 January deadline, we have extended the renewal window for another month. Even in this time of a challenging economy, club membership for the entire family is a 'steal of a deal' at \$20.00. I will include a renewal form for you to update your membership information. Please try to send in your renewal as soon as you can. Address it to the P.O. Box listed in the header of this letter.

We, the leadership, strive to plan meetings and discussions that will benefit all members. In our attempts to meet this goal, we are asking members to send us any ideas or issues you would like to see addressed through the year. Please drop me a line and share your ideas or requests over the next several weeks. All requests will be seriously evaluated, and based on merit, we will plan out our meetings for the 2009 year.

I'm thinking of starting another Feature Page in this publication. Since many of you do not have projects in the works I'm thinking of creating a Members Ride Page. It will be a page devoted to one member's car a month. It will feature a picture of your car and a brief write-up detailing the options and modifications you have made to the car. Please drop me a line if you're interested in sending me a shot of your car for the first edition of the new page.

I'm also looking for member project photos and stories to go in future issues of the Newsletter Project Page. Send me yours today! Many, many thanks to Roy, Pete, Chris and Grant for sending updates on their project cars.

Until next time.....

V/r  
Bob

## **Swap Shop**

If you have items listed here that are no longer available or wanted, shoot me an email to update.

### **For Sale**

Member Ed Downing has 2 Dodge Darts bodies for sale, a 71 & 74. He is asking \$1,200.00 for both of them. You can reach Ed at 256-651-9175.

Updated: Thanks John, Member John Bynum is parting out 69 Coronet 2 door(not a lot left, good rear glass, some trim good rear bumper core with guards) 66 Monaco 2dr 383, auto/console car, 71-72 Chargers, 80's RWD Fifth Avenues, other cars & have some 73-74 Road runner parts. 1980 VW Diesel Pickup for sale & 3 diesel rabbits included for spare parts. Also, for sale a Ludwig Hollywood Blue Oyster Pearl Drum set circa 1970, good shape with cases. He may be reached at 931-967-4499 or by email at [johnwbynum@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnwbynum@bellsouth.net)

Member Rockey Rozell has the following 69 Barracuda hood - \$50 (will fit 72 Dart); 68 Roadrunner grille - \$75; 68/69 deck led and hood for Roadrunner/Satellite \$50 each, Contact Rockey at 497-0110 or email: [rrrgtx4404@aol.com](mailto:rrrgtx4404@aol.com)

Member Pete Shreeves has a 78 Aspen, 70 Coronet, 68 Coronet, 74 Dodge truck and a General product which will remain a mystery, For Sale. For information, call or email Pete. Pete 503-0902. [Pete.Shreeves@tbe.com](mailto:Pete.Shreeves@tbe.com)

Member Robert Lewis has a 1967 440 with 727 Torqflite. The engine and transmission are a numbers matching set. The engine is date coded 10-66 for any of you looking for a date correct power train set up for your project. The engine still has standard bores and is complete minus the carburetor, distributor, and valve covers. Price is \$1500.00 negotiable. Robert can be reached at 256-603-5134 or [robert.g.lewis@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.g.lewis@us.army.mil)

Member Jud Hudson has the following for sale. 2 Sets of 1968 Dodge Charger taillights. Chrome is pitted in various places, but the lenses are excellent. Needs to be cleaned up. \$20 a set. Need to get rid of them!

Fran Cunningham –1973 Plymouth Volare 4-speed transmission with overdrive on the 4<sup>th</sup> gear, with shifter, yoke & flywheel & bell housing. \$475.00  
4-speed transmission for “A” body with shifter. \$475.00  
Eight pallets of Valiant, Dart, & Barracuda “A” body parts for 63 thru 66 Slant Six engine & body parts. Also, three parts cars.  
Contact Fran at 920 Toney Dr SE, Huntsville, AL 35802-1121 Home 256-881-5980 Cell 256-651-9461

Paul Wright- 1979 Dodge Ramcharger 4x4. This is a "work in progress" prepped to be painted. It has a rebuilt 360 and rebuilt 727 transmission. It runs and I've driven it around quite a bit. It doesn't look pretty with the bumpers off and the basic interior, but isn't that what a truck is for? I've got all the parts and a bunch of replacement parts, like window seals and a couple of patch panels. (It has a couple rust spots on the wheel wells) Its full-time 4WD, and is the last year for a removable top. I had planned to paint it, replace the hard top with a Jeep-style canvas top, and set it up as a camping trip/hunting vehicle. I just want what I've put into the trans, engine, and parts; \$1800 - or come look at it and make an offer.

1986 Dodge Omni GLH Turbo. I drove this to the last meeting I was able to attend. It is stock, with everything intact on it. The only flaw is that you have to double-clutch to get it into fifth gear. \$1200 - or make an offer.

Contact Paul at [Paul@bbenterprises.com](mailto:Paul@bbenterprises.com)

## Wanted

Member Judson Hudson is looking for the following items:

“I'm looking for parts to convert my 68 Charger to a 69, and need the following”:

- I Piece for Grille
- Grille Trim
- Middle Section of Grille
- 69 Tail panel
- 69 Hood Latch for Grille
- I'm willing to trade too! Great Mint Condition complete 68 Charger Grille for a Mint 69 Grille. Rust free 68 tail panel already drilled out from car, will trade for a workable 69 tail panel.
- Judson can be reached at [judhudson@knology.net](mailto:judhudson@knology.net)

(The club does not accept responsibility for typographical errors, incorrect prices and other claims as to condition, or owner claims. Direct contact with the seller is required for confirmation of the above.)