



Fabulous 50'S Car Show Mopars Rock And Roll All War To The Top

Nearly wall to wall crowd of enthusiasts and spectators packed the Midway at the Fabulous 50s Car Show.

Story and Photos by Larry Weiner

When we think of shows where Mopars take front and center stage, Chrysler's at Carlisle, the Mopar Nationals and Holley Moparty immediately come to mind. After all, the focus of these events is to celebrate the many exciting vehicles from Ma Mopar that have left an indelible mark on all things automotive over the years.

In addition to the Mopar specific car shows, there are too many mixed make events around the country to count. But with the exception of the Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals in Chicago, in many cases, Mopars are often overshadowed by the number of Brand X vehicles on display. Unlike these shows, there is one event in the Pacific Northwest where Mopars not only have a significant presence, but this year swept the field, with vehicles not only winning in several categories, but also garnering the highest honor, the prestigious "Pick of the Park Award." That show is the long running Fabulous 50s Charity Car Show.

The Fabulous 50's Car Show is the best show you may not have heard of but should definitely consider adding to your event calendar.

The 28th Annual Fabulous 50s Car Show was held on July 22, 2023 in Grants Pass, Oregon and as in previous years, was an overwhelming success. The Rogue Valley Classic Cruisers car club puts on the show, and it was hosted at the spacious Josephine County Fairgrounds this year. The fact is, the Fabulous 50s Car Show is the best show you may not have heard of, but should definitely consider adding to your event calendar. Located in picturesque Southwest Oregon, next to the scenic

Rogue River, Grants Pass offers the kind of small-town charm and hospitality that is associated with a bygone era that many of us fondly remember. Imagine a place with all the conveniences you could ask for, but without the traffic, stress and fast pace associated with larger, more metropolitan cities.

While Grants Pass and the surrounding communities may be small when it comes to population, there are more cool cars and trucks there than you could possibly imagine. Enthusiasts from all over the west have come to Grants Pass to settle and brought their classics, hot rods and muscle cars with them, making it the perfect place for a great car show.

Not one, but two gorgeous Plymouth Superbirds, along with a wide range of A, B, C and E Bodies garnered the attention of participants and attendees.

At the Fabulous 50s Show this year, a large Mopar contingent, spearheaded by members of the Southern Oregon Mopar Car Club, amplified the presence of Pentastar vehicles at the show. These included not one, but two gorgeous Plymouth Superbirds, along with a wide range of A, B, C and E Bodies that garnered the attention of participants and attendees. Along with a myriad of muscle cars, vintage pre and post war Mopars could also be seen on the show field, adding to the variety of the vehicles on display under the sunny, crystal-clear western sky.

Aisle upon aisle of beautiful cars and trucks of all kinds filled the fairgrounds, complemented by non-stop classic rock that echoed from a world class sound system. In between the memorable sounds of the fifties and sixties, the distinctive voice of Dan DeYoung, the Master of Ceremonies, reminded us of none other than the late Dave "Mac" McClelland, the



When was the last time you saw not one, but two Plymouth Superbirds displayed side by side? Both were not only show quality but were driven to the Show.



Intimidating 1964 Dodge 330 sedan was not only straight enough for black, but was powered by a 426 Hemi with dual quads on a cross ram. A great example of the kind of Super Stock Dodge that you could actually purchase new from your dealer in 1964.



celebrated announcer who called out NHRA championship drag racing action for decades. Dan spent the day walking the length and breadth of the show, interviewing enthusiastic participants about their vehicles. After a full day on the show field, Dan closed out the event in style, announcing each of the winners as the awards were presented on the Midway of the fairgrounds.

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While each of the winners at the show had great vehicles, there can only be one to garner the “Pick of the Park,” the top award at the Fabulous 50s Car Show. This year, the winner was the incredible 1971 Dodge Demon owned by Chris and Pauline Lehuede. Talk about straight enough for black, the sinister looking Demon was trick from top to bottom and front to back. Featuring a built to the hilt 340 Six Pack, backed up by a Hurst pistol grip shifted A833 4-speed and an 8 ¾ Sure Grip, this is one Demon that carries a big stick and is ready to use it at the slightest provocation.

The Demon was not the only Mopar to take home the silverware at the Fabulous 50s Show this year. Other winners included Dave Carr’s big (can you say land yacht?) 1968



This 1950 Plymouth might be categorized as a mild custom, but the more you look at it, the more you'll find. It was very tastefully done, and loaded with custom mods that were so well integrated that it appeared as though they could have been done in the Plymouth design studio as a refresh for the 1949 model.



Luxurious C-Bodies like this 1965 Plymouth Fury III convertible were award winners at the show. Driven regularly, after 59 years it still looks factory fresh.

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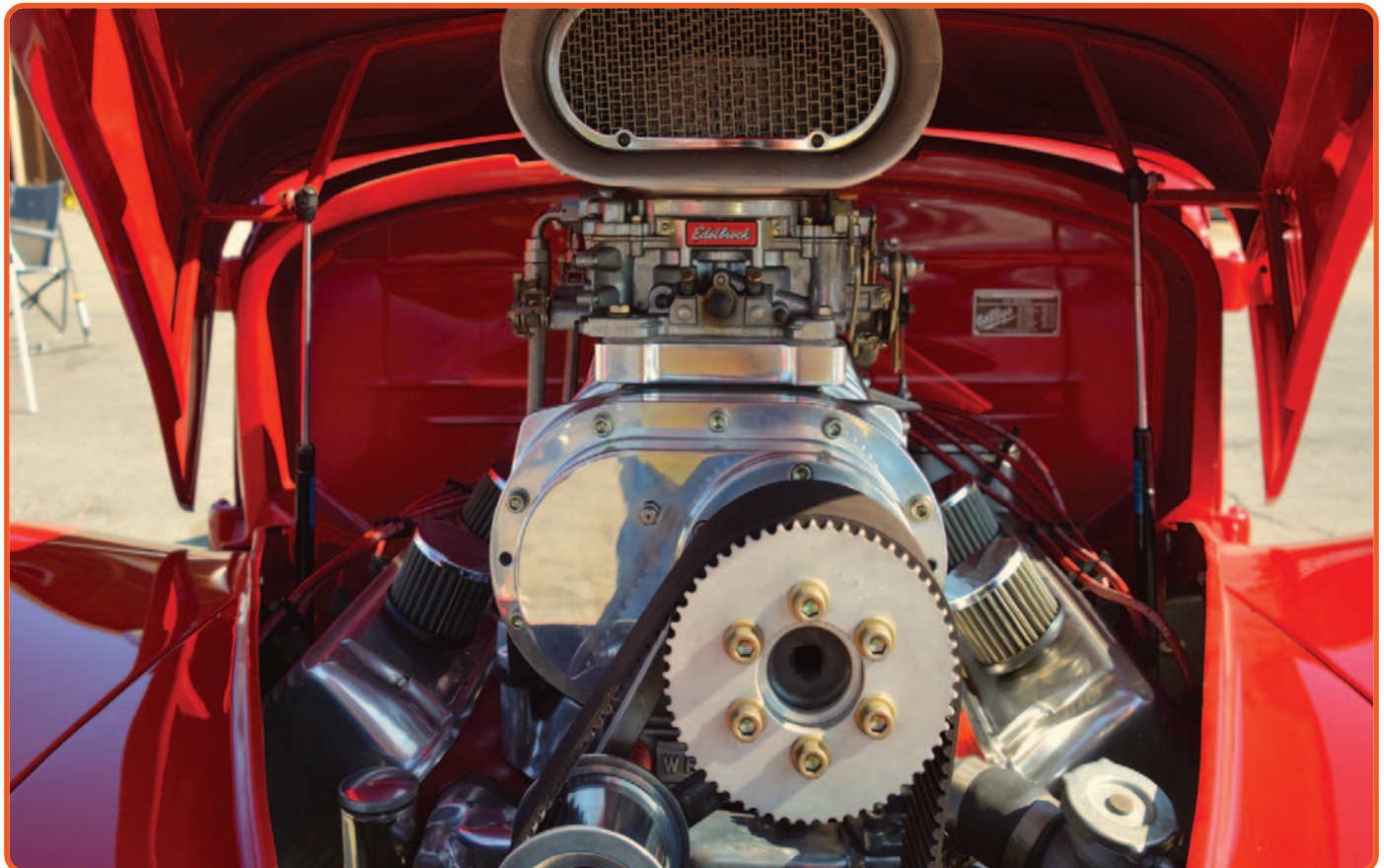
Chrysler convertible, while the coveted Mr. Norm's Award went to Floyd Linville for his 1970 Challenger R/T. Glistening in bright red with a matching red interior, it packed the punch of a big block wedge. As if all this was not enough, the Club Participation Award for the most vehicles at the show went to the Southern Oregon Car Club, handily beating out all the other car clubs. And just in case you were wondering, every vehicle at the show was driven there, even the rarest of the rare. Yes, Chrysler products really swept the show this year, and there is no doubt that there will be even more Mopars on the show field next year for the 2024 Fabulous 50s Show.

If you've grown tired of doing the same car shows, why not try one that's different, the Fabulous 50s Car Show in Grants Pass. With a whopping 120 plus awards up for grabs, this is one show that's in a class of its own.

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Talk about factory fresh, this 1969 Dodge Charger R/T was a 16,653-mile unrestored original. Even the engine looks like it just rolled off the assembly line. Imagine a time not so long ago when Chargers much like this one were a common sight. Today, a survivor of this caliber is the epitome of rarified air.



Speaking of wicked Willys, this blown 392 Hemi powered 1940 Willys American was a great example of the breed. With a giant size Elephant lurking under the hood, it made a statement that was anything but subtle.



There were several 1960s style gassers on display at this show, including this cherry street driven Anglia. Powered by a Hilborn injected 426 Hemi, it looked ready to run heads up against its arch rival, a wicked Willys.



1971 Demon 340 was hard to miss with its bright yellow paint. The neat A-Body sported a wide range of upgrades from engine performance mods to trick custom wheels.



Another C-Body convertible, this one's a rare 1968 Chrysler Newport. If you think it's nothing more than the perfect ride to cruise the strand then get ready for a big surprise. Under the massive hood is a built 440 that's backed up with a beefed up 727 Torqueflite. Big and fast, the best of both worlds



The winged wonder that stops average people in the tracks. What could be more audacious than a bright yellow 1970 Plymouth Superbird? With not just one, but two Superbirds at the show, you can be sure that this one got plenty of attention all day. not just one, but two Superbirds at the show, you can be sure that this one got plenty of attention all day.

Car Show is in a class of its own. Southern Oregon is beautiful in the summer, the scenery is breathtaking and best of all, as a Mopar enthusiast, you'll not only be welcome, you can enjoy a fun weekend while making hundreds of new friends. The date for the 29th Annual Fabulous 50s Charity Car Show is July 27,

2024. Hope to see you there!
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That thing got a Hemi? You bet! Badass 1934 Ford high boy street rod packed a serious punch with its pro built 1957 392 Hemi.



Nice original 1967 Plymouth GTX stood out in stark contrast to many of the over-the-top modified cars and trucks on display at the show. Equipped with nothing more than a set of Magnum 500s, it reminded us of what a new GTX looked like back in '67 when Plymouth was "Out to Win You Over."



Rarer than the proverbial hen's teeth, this 1941 Dodge business coupe was the perfect example of an unrestored pre-war survivor.



1969 Plymouth Sport Satellite dazzled under the sun in retina searing Satin Orange. Packing a 440 with plenty of performance mods, it showcased the perfect marriage of vintage and modern muscle. We particularly like the custom-made sign on the core support.



White 1970 Plymouth Superbird was equipped with a 440 Six Pack. Pauline dressed up just for the Fabulous 50's Car Show and is seen here with the 'Bird in a period perfect costume, making her rare Mopar musclecar even more of a standout.

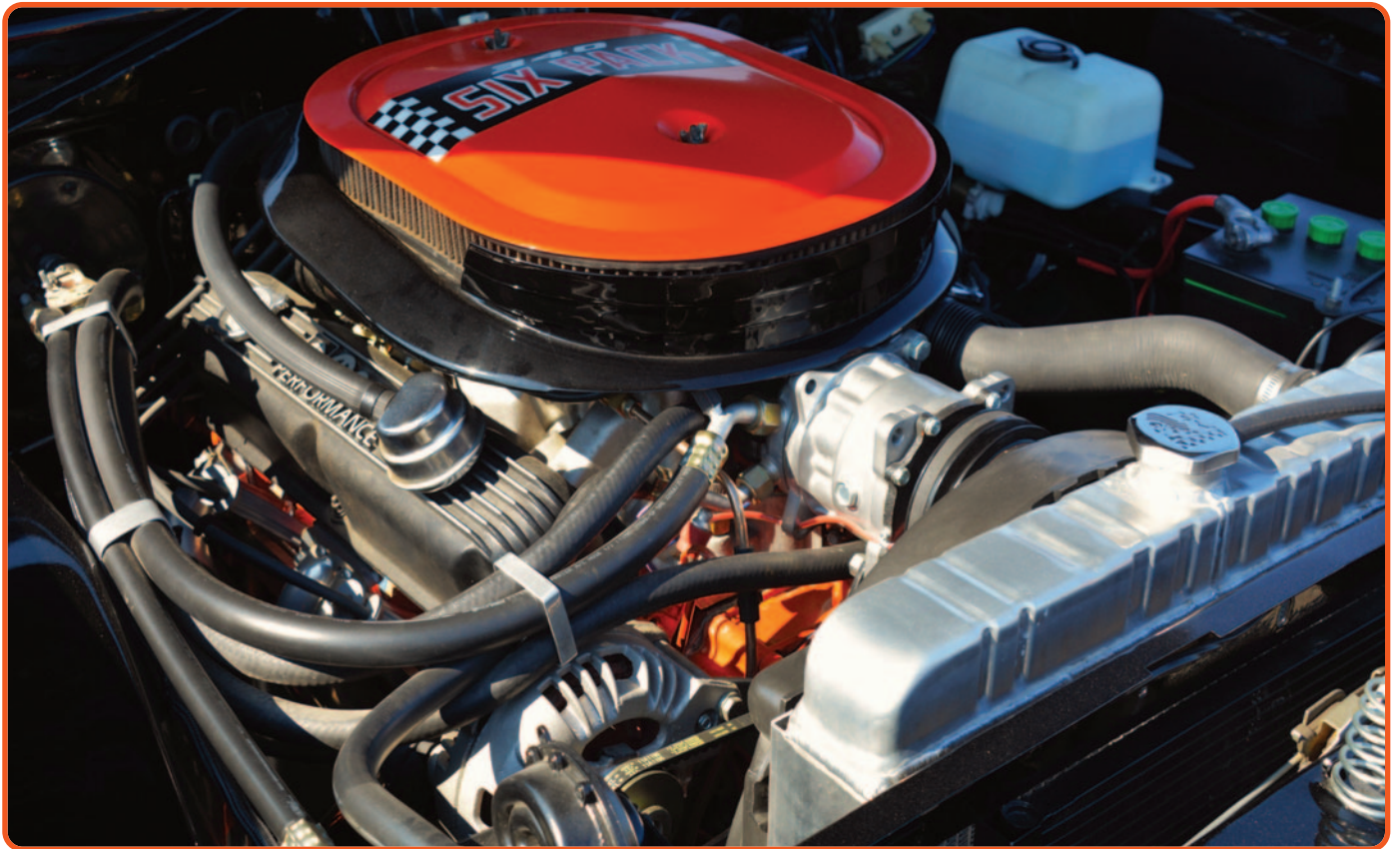


This 1970 Challenger R/T won the Mr. Norm's Award at the show. Nice, extremely original E-Body was red inside and out. It packed a stock big block and even featured a set of optional factory rear window louvers which were all the rage in 1970.



Unlike the '70 Challenger, this early E-Body was highly modified and looked like it was ready to race. Deep blue paint and rolling stock that consisted of matching painted wheels and the largest tires that would fit under the fenders, this one was all business. A 440 built to the max backed up the tough look, and dared anyone to challenge it, no pun intended.





The winner of the coveted “Pick of the Park Award,” was this stunning 1971 Dodge Demon 340. It was not only straight enough for mile deep black paint but featured a myriad of performance and handling upgrades. Taking a page out of Mr. Norm’s playbook, the pro built 340 is equipped with a Six Pack induction system, while the interior features the obligatory Hurst Pistol Grip Shifter to stir the gears in the A833 4-speed and the interior even featured original plaid seat inserts. Very cool!