



# Rev It Up

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## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF RJ CARS INC.

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Welcome Spring! Yeehaw-are we glad to be able to open the shop doors and get some fresh air.

We have been super busy here working away on various restoration projects, servicing cars to get them ready for the summer months, and just about everything in between.

Be sure to check out Dave Swider's 1970 Dodge Charger R/T in our Currently Under Restoration section. Look for a future issue of Rev It Up featuring the cars of Ted LaFrance.

Ted's freshly painted and detailed 1970 Dodge Challenger T/A is pictured at the right with John Krause, Brandon Heerkens and myself.

As always, you can check out the RJ CARS website for more

of our cool project cars past and present.

Aside from the excitement around the shop working on awesome muscle cars and other projects my thoughts have been focused on my good friend and favorite "wrench" John Krause. John was seriously injured in a head on car accident on Monday May 2nd. He was hit by a young driver passing two cars on a double solid line.

I think it's important to remember that our actions on the road can have a profound "impact" on others, as well as ourselves, when we make the wrong move or get in a big hurry.

All of you who know John or have met him at RJ CARS know he is the greatest guy

and treats everybody with respect and honesty and greets everyone with a big smile.

We are all hoping for a speedy recovery and to have him back piecing together his 1970 Plymouth Superbird project soon!

Thank you to all of our customers that have been patient with us during our busy spring season here at RJ CARS.

Safe Driving  
Russell



1970 Challenger T/A  
Owner: Ted LaFrance

## SUSPENDED ANIMATION HITS THE STANDS



Regular "Rev It Up" readers will remember our fourth quarter 2004 issue. We first reported that Mopar Muscle magazine approached us at Carlisle All-Chrysler Nationals in Pennsylvania, July 2004. They photographed two recent restorations we had on display.

The July 2005 issue of Mopar Muscle features Mike Fraley's 1970 Dodge Challenger T/A in a three page article entitled

"Suspended Animation." Writer Kevin Shaw and photographer Randy Bolig did an excellent work up on the Green Go, 340 six-pack equipped, basket case turned beauty. We highly recommend you pick up a copy of this great publication!

The car has since been re-sold by Fraley at the prestigious Barrett-Jackson Auction.

Also photographed at Carlisle was Darren Traver's 1972 Dodge

Charger Rallye. Will it be featured in an upcoming Mopar Muscle? We'll let you know!



## CURRENTLY UNDER RESTORATION



APR 20 2005



MAR 25 2005

Our most recent project is Dave Swider's numbers matching 1970 Dodge Charger R/T. We met up with Dave at the 2004 All Chrysler Nationals in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He inquired about rebuilding the drive line on his tired Charger. Function being his main concern we have kept the work to driver condition.

So far we have replaced the windshield, painted the dash behind the glass, added a new posi to the freshened up 8 3/4 rear end, all new brakes and suspension components, new stainless steel fuel and brake lines and fuel tank, frame repairs and new shackle mounts.

The 440 Four barrel has just returned from Mike Mastin Engineering where it was given a thorough rebuild. The block was baked, blasted and decked. Cylinders have been bored .030

over. There is a new Competition Cams camshaft and lifters. Rods were reconditioned, heads milled and bronze walled valve guides have been installed. The big mill also received Manley stainless steel valves and valve springs, ARP head bolts, new rockers, rocker shafts and push rods. Of course we now have hardened exhaust seats permitting better use of unleaded gas. The crank was super polished and main journals were align honed. The intake was also milled to ensure a proper seal.

The 727 Automatic transmission is currently being rebuilt and will be stuffed into the freshly painted and detailed engine bay soon.

Dave also opted to have us pull the grill and headlamp doors and freshen them up as well. Dave is really pleased with the

progress and is already talking about an RJ CARS body and paint job and adding TTI exhaust system with stainless tips in the future.



MAR 19 2005



MAR 23 2005

1970 Dodge Charger R/T

## CAR SEASON 2005



Here in the Southern Tier of New York the weather dictates our car show season more than in other parts of the USA. Mid-May through mid-October is the standard time frame we can expect to use and enjoy our classic cars, hot rods and motorcycles.



JUL 10 2004



JUN 10 2004

Of course there will be a wide variety of events to attend, from big National meets hosted by large car clubs to small town parades and festivals. We recommend you try as many different types as you can.

If you have never been to a "socks up" national event you are missing out! The vehicles displayed here are probably the best of the best. They have been either meticulously restored or are faithfully maintained originals. You may not see cars of this caliber outside of an event like this. There is a lot to be learned by someone new to the

hobby at one of these shows.

We also recommend the smaller local shows, cruise nights and community festivals. You'll find one somewhere every weekend! They are economical, and offer more than just "car stuff" to do. It's a great opportunity to make friends and show off your car too. Often events like these contribute a portion of their proceeds to charity, a nice bonus to the hosting village or town. Bring the family, encourage friends and particularly young people to participate. Youth is a very important element in our hobby. Who else will look after our old cars when we're gone?



APR 13 2004



So whether you are out to win that big "Best of Show" trophy, add another dash plaque to your collection or enjoy a milkshake & fries at some drive-in diner, enjoy yourself! It's a short few months. Before you know it, Jack Frost will be dropping the checkered flag on "Car Season" 2005!

Remember-RJ CARS can restore, repair, maintain or modify your car to compete at any level, from trophy winner to ice cream cruiser!

Check out our Calendar of Events to see where you can see us and some of our quality work.

## TIPS TO DECODING YOUR CAR'S VIN #

A car's vehicle identification number (VIN) is the automotive equivalent of human "DNA".

It sets their vehicles apart from the millions of vehicles out there. In later years it is reflected in 17 digit characters. It displays a car's uniqueness and heritage and provides a form of factory to scrap yard identification. It can be used to track recalls, registrations, warranty claims, thefts and insurance coverage. Each character or digit has a particular purpose. They are as follows:

◆ **1st character**-Identifies the country in which the vehicle

was manufactured. For ex.: USA(1 or 4), Canada(2), Mexico(3), Japan(J), England(S), Germany(W), Italy(Z).

◆ **2nd character**-Identifies the manufacturer. For ex.: Chrysler(C), Dodge(B), Chevy(I), Ford(F), General Motors(G), Jaguar(A), Mercedes Benz(D), Oldsmobile(3), Plymouth(P), VW (V).

◆ **3rd character**-Identifies vehicle type or manufacturing division.

◆ **4th to 8th characters**- Identifies vehicle features such as body, style, engine type, model, series, etc.

◆ **9th character**-Identifies VIN

accuracy as check digit.

◆ **10th character**-Identifies the model year. For ex.: 1997(V), 1998(W), 1999(X), 2000(Y), 2001(1), 2002(2), 2003(3).

◆ **11th character**-Identifies the assembly plant for the vehicle.

◆ **12th to 17th characters**- Identifies the sequences of the vehicle for production as it rolled off the manufacturers assembly line.

Understanding the cars VIN has become very popular with car collectors for new and old vehicles alike. Collectors can confirm a vehicle's uniqueness, collectability and date of production. Consider

this-owning one of the last cars off the assembly line for a certain year or model or how about owning one of the first 50 of a new model off the assembly line? Car collecting has become an immense world wide hobby/business and knowing how to read and understand a VIN is a very important aspect.



## ORIGINAL OR RESTORED?

Two Schools of Thought exist as to whether restored or original is preferable.

When it comes to automotive dreams, a lot of people ponder the supposed treasure sitting in garages or barns. Tales abound about someone who found an unmolested vintage Mopar with low mileage sitting in private hands just waiting to be rediscovered. The rarer the beast the better the story becomes.

For most of us, however, reality comes home instead. Cars



were sold both new and used; while some were preserved as special objects of affection, others had the wheels literally driven off of them. For fans of the muscle car era, the quandary exists as to whether a solid car should be left alone or restored, and each school of thought has its proponents and detractors.

Cars that have survived are

great for documentation; the car is a time capsule. Something is only original once; that status changes forever once it is restored. However, the downside is that you're scared to drive it around, since any accident, no matter how small, will damage that originality. So if you really like to drive, a restored car would be a better choice.

To be considered original, a car should not have received any major changes since new. It should have its factory paint and interior. Due to warranty issues and abuse, sometimes original engines are gone even on these cars. A replacement must be dated properly to the car and feature as many pieces original to the car as possible. Moreover, any small pieces that must be replaced should use either NOS original or exact replica restoration parts.

Of course, any car presentable as original will likely have low mileage and have been well-cared-for. Such cars having mileage in excess of 75,000 are rare. As the mileage climbs, wear and tear

makes a restoration more of a necessity than an option. Restorations come in various levels. Some cars are a combination of restored and original parts, some are restored to stock appearance but with minor upgrades, and some are restored to concours status. The latter can cost tens of thousands of dollars as the restorer locates and rebuilds every single component in the car; only a high-demand machine with the rarest or most notable options would be considered for this level of perfection. Such cars are seldom driven any significant distance once completed.

Many car enthusiasts are hands-on in the restoration process. They will start a project and do much of the work themselves, farming out those jobs that they may be able to do in their home garage. One reason why RJ CARS offers a wide selection of restoration services to help our customers complete the loving process of renewing a classic machine.

A restored car may also have some minor changes to make it more enjoyable. This could be

an electronic ignition layout that replaces the old point-type ignition for ease of maintenance. Reduced compression ratios or heads for lead-free fuels are something that might help make the car more pleasurable to drive in the 21st century. Conversely, an engine builder might use a big 528 cubic inch crate engine painted and detailed to look bone stock for additional performance. If enough of the original car is in solid shape, the owner may decide to simply repaint the body, or detail the engine, or replace the carpet, or any combination of things. This method also allows the work to be done as time and budget allow. In the end, like the original 'surviving' car and the fully-restored masterpiece, it's a car to be proud of.





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## We're on the Web!

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

Quality Automotive Repair & Restoration Services



RJ CARS INC. started in business in 1989 as Russell Jacobs Custom Auto Repair Shop.

We offer a wide variety of services including:

- Classic and Antique Auto Restorations
- Collision/ Auto body Repair & Painting
- Mechanical Repair & Services

- Sandblasting/Glass beading
- Interior
- Glass
- Detailing
- Stainless/ Aluminum Polishing
- Parts
- Tire Sales/Service
- Sales

Contact our staff for any of the above listed services at:

**Phone:**  
**607-324-8325**

**Fax:**  
**775-860-5203**

**Email:**  
**[jacobs@rjcars.com](mailto:jacobs@rjcars.com)**

**8:30am-5:30pm**  
**Monday –Friday**  
**Saturday By Appointment**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 29, 2005**

### Wildwood Car Show

James St. Park, Hornell NY  
9-3pm

**June 5, 2005\*\*\***

### Lake Erie Tri-State Mopar Club 20th Annual Mopar Car Show & Swap Meet

Albion Fairgrounds  
Albion, PA  
8-4pm Rain or Shine



**June 5, 2005**

### 30th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show

Alstom Transportation, Inc. Parking  
Lot (off State Rt. 36)  
Hornell, NY



**June 19, 2005**

### Canacadea Car Show

Canacadea Park  
Hornell, NY



**July 8-10, 2005\*\*\***

### All Chrysler Nationals

Carlisle, PA

**July 30, 2005**

### RJ CARS INC. Open House

Car Show, Food & Fun!

Come out and see the facilities!

2pm Rain or Shine



**August 12-14, 2005**

### Mopar Nationals

National Trail Raceway  
Columbus, OH

**\*\*\*RJ CARS will have vendor space**

## Car Search

We are looking to find the following cars:

1. Any 70-74 Cuda or Challengers
2. 1970-71 Dodge/ Plymouth E Body Convertibles
3. 1969 Dodge Charger SE Gold 383, auto air, power steering, bench seat
4. 1967 Plymouth GTX
5. 1969 Dodge Charger R/T 440 Magnum 3 or 4 speed
6. 1970 Chevelle SS
7. Other rare or collectable cars or parts
8. Any Mopar Parts for sale; A, B, E Bodies

If you know of any above cars for sale please contact us!