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HOT SCOOP CHRYSLER TO BUILD V8-RWD MUSCLE CAR IN 2004!

PG. 8

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FACTORY 4-SPEED SUPER BEE PILOT CAR!



PG. 36

8-SECOND KING OF STREET 'CUDA



PG. 4

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JOHN SCHNEIDER'S HOT NEW TIRE-ROASTIN' 511ci HEMI GENERAL LEE!

PG. 40

Chrysler Classic

COVERAGE

PG. 46

INSIDE

MOPAR MERCHANT REGISTRY

PG. 9

PENTASTAR NEWS

PG. 10

ENVIRO-MASOCHISM

PG. 12

READER LETTERS

PG. 16

1000s OF CARS & PARTS FOR SALE

PG. 20

UPCOMING EVENTS

PG. 71

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1 0 >

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PG. 42



BIG-BLOCK DART PRO STREETER!

PG. 14

Wild 300 MODELS

16,000 MILE UNRESTORED 340-'RUNNER SURVIVOR!



PG. 75





Bo Duke

All you Dukes of Hazzard fans are gonna love this. Over the last few years we've come to be pretty good buddies with John Schneider (aka Bo Duke), and have featured the General Lee Charger clones he built in our December, 1998, issue. The '69 Charger played a big part in John's life. He currently owns no less than four '68 and '69 Chargers, including a triple black 440, 4 speed '69 R/T!

Our featured machine is currently known as "Bo's Hemi General Lee", and is more mind-blowing than anything the Duke boys would have ever dreamed of.

This Charger was the last of the four General Lee clones John built last year. Originally a 383 powered Arizona car, the Charger had an ultra clean body and proved itself a fun and dependable driver. But, John knew that if he was going to be truly happy, he'd have to do something he'd

John Schneider's new 511ci Hemi General Lee



Dependable Charger

by Randy Holden

photos by Randy Harmon

always thought about doing - build a Hemi powered General Lee.

Initially, John planned to drop in a Mopar Performance 426 crate Hemi. But, before he could get the checkbook out, a twist of fate brought him across the path of John Arruzza of Arruzza Performance. Once Arruzza told him they could build an aluminum headed 511" stroker Hemi that would run circles around a MP 426" job, and do it at a comparable price, John didn't need much more convincing. Working with the criteria that the Hemi had to be dependable, driveable, and able to get along on pump gas, Arruzza set about building the beast.

Everything centers on a new MP Hemi block with a standard bore. A Callies full radius 4" stroker crank swings Eagle rods and Wiseco custom premium forged pistons. A JP Performance billet timing set hooks to a Comp Cams custom ground .547 lift 246 duration cam.

The heads are Mopar Performance aluminum units reworked by Arruzza with larger ports and a competition valve job. Manley stainless valves are held in check with Comp Cams valve springs. Stainless steel roller rocker arms with Crane adjusters reside on Mopar

Performance rocker shafts. Custom made Smith Brothers Chromemoly pushrods reside in Crane anti pump up lifters.

The intake is an Arruzza modified Street Hemi aluminum piece. Topping everything off are a pair of 750 cfm Carter carbs. The final compression ratio comes in at 10.26:1. The 511" monster produces over 500 horses and just over 600 pounds of torque!

Arruzza built a bulletproof TorqueFlite transmission filled with Turbo Action internals to back the hemi up. The driveshaft is a Dynotech Performance unit. The 3.54 geared Dana 60 rear was built by none other than Herb McCandless!

The whole package came together at Daniel's Goodyear Tire in Thousand Oaks, CA, which is owned by a friend of John's and maintains his old car fleet.

Once the bugs were worked out, the Charger's performance was more than John had dared hope for. During a recent trip to a friend's house in Las Vegas, John took the Hemi General along and did battle with his friend's Viper! The big Charger outran the Viper over and over again all weekend long! In a straight line, the big Hemi put a hurtin' on the V-10 roadster!

What surprised John most is the car's driveability. John tells us, "Literally, my wife can get in this thing and go to the grocery store dependably. It idles great and the kids love it. This is the most reliable fast car I've ever had". That's saying a lot coming from a guy that's had Lamborghinis and a host of other exotic "Brand X" iron in the garage before.

Ironically, the better-than-expected performance of the Hemi will likely lead to the demise of the General Lee-style paint. John wants to drive the car regularly, and in this paint, the car's darned conspicuous! Just getting out of the driveway without drawing a crowd is hard to do. Who wants that with a semi-daily driver?

Current plans call for the General Lee paint to disappear after this show season. Next year, Bo's Hemi General will be wearing red paint with a black vinyl top and R/T graphics. Then John and family will be able to cruise southern California without three hundred Dukes of Hazzard fans chasing after them!

Enjoy looking at Bo's Hemi General Lee while you can, come next year, it'll be John's Hemi R/T clone. Either way, this good old boy has declared this one a "keeper"! ☘

