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Maximum Performance: Mopar Super Stock Drag Racing 1962 - 1969



Synopsis

Since the early days of racing, Chrysler, Dodge, and Plymouth have dominated drag strips and race tracks. During 1955 alone, Chrysler 300s won 37 major stock car races and clinched both the NASCAR and AAA stock car championships. Although the impressive engine options of 1950s consistently out-performed the competition, they were a mere opening act for the extremes of performance that would be unleashed throughout the 1960s--the golden era of drag racing and factory super-performance cars. *Maximum Performance: Super Stock Drag Racing 1962-1969* details Chrysler's amazing dominance in this era. Its drivers were among drag racing's first paid professional racers, and this book covers the complete story of Mopar drag racing accompanied by historical imagery as well as contemporary photos. This is the real story behind Super Stock and Factory Experimental drag racing as told the people who lived it!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Old Cars Weekly, Nov. 9, 2006 "Schild argues that if it weren't for Chrysler's participation and sponsorship of Super Stock and factory experimental drag racing, the sport of drag racing would not be what it is today. He's right, of course, and you'll agree with him after flipping through the pages of the *Maximum Performance* of Chrysler's glory days."

Jim Schild is the publisher of *The Auto Review* and is the author of several books in the *Collector's Originality Guide* series, including *Challenger* and *Barracuda*

1970-1974, *Chevrolet Camaro* 1970-1981, and *Ford Model A*. He has also

written two acclaimed histories of Chrysler's racing efforts, *Proving Ground: A History of Dodge, Plymouth, and Chrysler Racing*, and *Maximum Performance: Mopar Super Stock Drag Racing 1962-1969*. Schild lives in Columbia, Illinois, and is a member of 15 local and national collector car organizations, including the Society of Automotive Historians.

My driving perch is a 1962 Fuel-Injected 327 Corvette roadster, a 1966 Chevelle SS-396 360h.p. coupe and a ride in a 1961 Chevrolet 409 360 h.p. with the driver and one other passenger. I have to partially lust for and partially block driving and riding in the cars in this book to avoid joining an all out racing fraternity that tows overnight and races the next day. Letting others do it is not an assignment or division of labor. The only way to really appreciate this book is to compare some of the major players in it with the dry lakes characters of the 30's who built the after market speed equipment industry with the factory engineers and dealers who made all this happen. Alone, no one was going to find this level.

Very good book, but I was hoping to see more of us who raced our MaxWedge and Hemi Mopars on the west coast at LADS, San Fernando, Bakersfield, etc., but the book concentrates primarily on the mid-west and eastern area cars... and it was great to see these guys again. I bought my '62 Plymouth 413 Sport Fury from Milne Bros., trading in my '60 Chevy 348 tri-power, because I was tired of getting beat by the Mopars. My '63 426 Belvedere and '65 Plymouth Hemi also came from Milne Bros. and as Jim points out in this book, the Hemi HP was grossly understated, as mine was producing 543HP out of the box. Blueprinting it produced even more. Overall, a very good book with a lot of good background and product spec. details. I only wish it had more of what us west coast guys were doing. Jim, FYI, Chrysler made a Teflon valve seal and valve guide machining tool for installing the Teflon seal available during '62. Stopped the 413 sparkplug bad oil fouling!

Author Schild says in his introduction that he's been studying 60's Mopar door cars for decades. I can believe it! Unlike some superficially similar books on drag racing, this one reveals its author's encyclopedic knowledge of his topic. I've never seen a book of this type with such a wealth of information, from the highly technical to the more aesthetic. There are many photos, mercifully a good cross-section of Mopar wheelmen famous and obscure and not just the factory-backed stars. Ultra-detailed engine specs abound, as well as histories of each engine's development. All the Max Wedges and hemis are here, along with the Chrysler engineers, mechanics and drivers who spread the Mopar gospel in the 60's. You will not go wrong with this book whether you're a Pentastar

fanatic or just interested in the history of drag racing. This one merits an A+.

Really good book on the subject, but not worth the ridiculous \$130.00+ that many of these sellers are asking for it. Still a \$40.00 book any way you cut it.

Excellent book that is a must have for all Mopar drag racing fans as well as for 60's super stock drag racing fans. The pictures are excellent also and bring back many memories as I saw many of the cars featured. This book documents a special time in drag racing history. I purchased the book as a gift for my disabled brother who has a 1965 Dodge Mr. Norm 426 wedge street version race car. It is bringing him hours of pleasure.

Excellent book. The quality and way it captures this historical era of Mopar history is great. Pictures, data and stories really take you back to the days of the early Hemi on the track.

Great book for all Mopar fans.

Loved It! MoPar or no car

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