

Once more, it's time for our annual "Top Ten" Mopars of the year. If you're not familiar with how the vehicles are selected, here's an outline of what it takes to make our list. To clear all the hurdles, a car doesn't have to be a perfect restoration, or even rare, or astonishingly valuable. To make our list, all a vehicle has to do is impart that Mopars are the coolest cars on the planet and capture our attention and the imagination of the

masses. If it's influential, or historic, or is a machine that made everyone take notice, that's what we're looking for.

This particular year was extremely problematic. Our biggest problem, as always, was narrowing the field to ten vehicles. Using state-of-the-art computers, artificial intelligence, and a heated kicking paper footballs contest, we managed to get the number down to just ten. ✖



THE '68 HEMI SUPER STOCK BARRACUDA TEST MULE CAR

The machine that started the entire 1968 Hemi Super Stock project for Plymouth and Dodge came out of hiding in a big way in 2024. The "Mule" Barracuda was built within Chrysler's "Skunkworks" with the biggest names in their engineering and design teams working on it, with Bob Tarozzi taking the lead. Featured in countless magazines in 1968, this car served as the rolling blueprint showing Hurst how to convert the cars. Long tucked away in an Arizona collection, Myron Serbay bought it in 1999 and only showed it several times throughout the years. In 2023, he teamed up with Ed "Hemi Eddie" Strzelecki to return the car to its 1968 glory, being careful to keep it as original as possible. It debuted at the 2024 MCACN event to a rave reception, and plans are to keep it on the show circuit in 2025. In our opinion, this was the most historic old Mopar to emerge in 2024.



THE '70 HAMBURGLER MCDONALD'S 'CUDA

This one came out of left field for sure! McDonald's decided to build a promotional car to tour around the country in 2024 and decided on a "Hamburgler" theme. Somebody decided that car should be a '70 'Cuda, so they tasked famed designer Sean Smith to design it, and Fusion Motor Company in California built it. The heavily modified 'Cuda conversion toured the country for the better part of the year, with their "Hamburgler" mascot behind the wheel, and the car is powered by a 440 four-speed combo. This is likely one of the most over-the-top old Mopars ever built specifically to promote a private company – at least in modern history.

RICHARD PETTY'S 1974 NASCAR CHARGER

This car is certainly no stranger to the Mopar realm, as it's been a fixture in the hobby since 1974. King Richard raced these Chargers in 1974 and 1975, and they became the most successful cars in NASCAR history, winning 23 races in those two years and having 43 top-five finishes! This particular Charger was kept by Petty at his shop until 1984, when he donated it to the International Motorsports Hall of Fame Museum at Talladega. It remained on display there without an engine until 2003, when it did a brief worldwide tour with a Hemi in it, then it was back to display at the museum without an engine. In 2023, when Eric Perrine, the museum's event coordinator, decided to bring it back to life for good and put it back into "as raced" 1974 condition. With the help of volunteers, the Petty Charger now has a NASCAR-correct '74 440 in it, with a bullet-proof four-speed, new tires, and they left it all original cosmetically but cleaned and primed it to the nines. The revived Charger began making public displays in 2023, but made a number of events in 2024 and was reunited with King Richard himself. So, major kudos to Eric and the volunteers at the museum for bringing history back to life and taking it on the road so more Mopar fanatics can experience it in person.



RECORD BREAKING \$175,000 '71 DUSTER

This car was a mind-warping machine for the entire Mopar hobby, and vivid proof that auctions are seldom rooted in real-life. Mike Mancini restored the yellow 340 Duster for Steve Cabral back in 2017. It went to MCACN and scored 996 points out of 1,000, making it the highest scoring Duster in MCACN history. Steve sold the car in 2023, it flipped hands a couple of times, then it ended up at Mecum's Kissimmee auction in early 2024, where it gaveled down for \$175,450! That stunned everybody and set a price record that's likely to stand for many years. The previous high price had been \$77,000. What makes this even more curious is the yellow '71 has a non-matching numbers 426" modified small block stroker motor in it! Strange days indeed!



EXOMOD'S CARBON FIBER D69 CHARGER DAYTONA

We've become accustomed to seeing the carbon fiber C68 and C69 brand-new Charger copies being fabricated by the crew at ExoMod, but they revealed the prototype for the amazing D69 Charger Daytona at SEMA at the end of 2023, and the car has now gone into limited production in 2024. These are brand-new cars titled as Charger Daytonas, based on the Hellcat Redeye Challenger platform, but using an entirely new fabricated Daytona body which has major throwback styling cues to the original '69 Charger Daytona. If you want all the exotic styling of the original with a whole lot more creature comforts, handling, and not to mention these are far faster than the originals, look up ExoMod on the internet, this car is guaranteed to impress!

