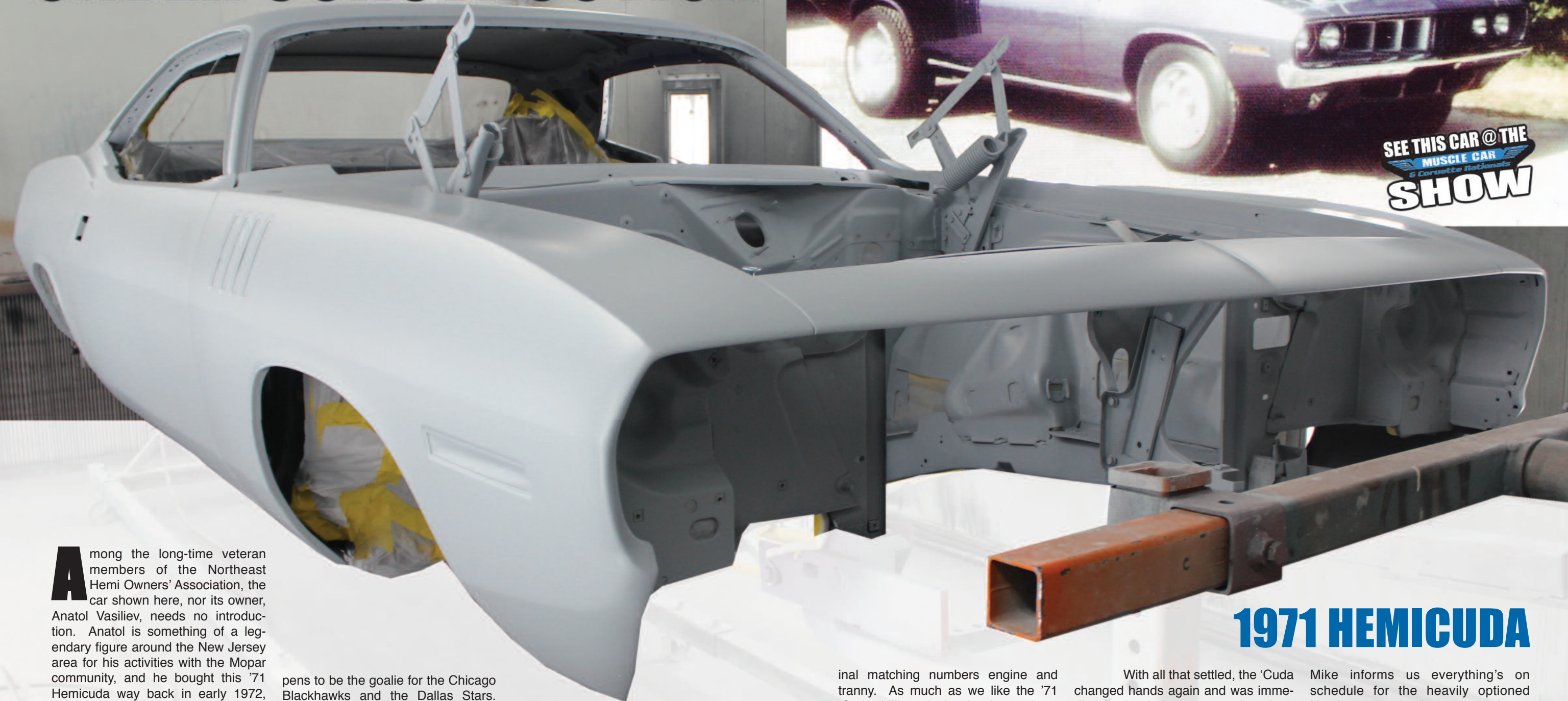


UNDER CONSTRUCTION

FUTURE SHOW STOPPERS



Among the long-time veteran members of the Northeast Hemi Owners' Association, the car shown here, nor its owner, Anatol Vasiliev, needs no introduction. Anatol is something of a legendary figure around the New Jersey area for his activities with the Mopar community, and he bought this '71 Hemicuda way back in early 1972, and just about every Mopar guy in the Northeast will likely remember seeing this car frequently throughout the 1970's and 1980's. There are certain cars that have their own fan bases, and this machine was certainly one of them. Finally, however, Anatol decided to sell this beloved 'Cuda back in 2006, and the E-body went to Mopar collector Ed Balfour, who also hap-

pens to be the goalie for the Chicago Blackhawks and the Dallas Stars. Thus, the car moved to Ed's home in Michigan, and it wasn't seen much before it turned up for sale again in September 2014.

Another collector and friend of Mike Mancini, (of American Muscle Car Restorations) took interest in the car, but wanted it seriously authenticated, so the 'Cuda was inspected by Dave Wise of MMC Detroit and Greg

Nelson of the famed Mopar Ponderosa, and the report they came back with got everyone's attention – obviously the car was legit and it had an airtight history, but furthermore, it turns out this is the only known "In Violet" purple '71 Hemicuda that came with the V6X black billboard stripe still known to exist with its orig-

inal matching numbers engine and tranny. As much as we like the '71 'Cuda billboard decals these days, because they're so outrageous, one must remember, the big stickers were extremely unpopular when these cars were new; so much so that it was far more common to see a '71 'Cuda without them than it was with them. In truth, only fourteen 1971 Hemicuda hardtops left the factory with the billboard decals!

With all that settled, the 'Cuda changed hands again and was immediately hauled over to American Muscle Car Restorations in Rhode Island, where it's undergoing a complete ground-up OEM-style restoration. Tim Wellborn came on board to provide some very rare NOS parts for the project, and as you read this, the finishing touches should be getting put into place for the car's big coming out party at the MCACN show in Chicago.

Mike informs us everything's on schedule for the heavily optioned Hemi car to make the event, and seeing this one again is going to be like reuniting with an old friend. A lot of us knew this car back when Anatol was running all over New Jersey and Pennsylvania with it, back in the earlier days of the Mopar hobby, so it'll be fascinating to see the purple 'Cuda once again, we're quite certain looking far better than it ever has before. ✖

1971 HEMICUDA