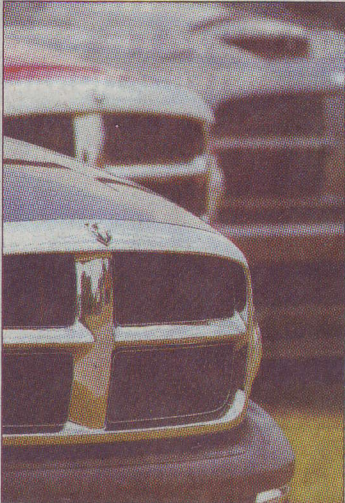


Getting behind the Hemi



STAR-TELEGRAM/PAUL MOSELEY

Enthusiasts of trucks with Hemi engines from across the country are meeting in Arlington this week.

By **JOHN AUSTIN**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

ARLINGTON — Yeah, it was a Hemi that got sideways in the west-bound lane on Pioneer Parkway on Wednesday afternoon after the owner got on it a little too hard in a U-turn.

But whad'ya expect when a guy has 345 horses under the hood and 25 fellow members of HemiTruck-Club.com from as far away as Florida across the street.

Mark Simonds, 44, came 1,500 miles from North Carolina to attend the club's second annual rally.

"I like to say it goes very fast from gas station to gas station," said Simonds, aka "MrHemi," who was at USA Motorsports on Wednesday for a session on the store's dynamometer. "The gas mileage ain't all that good."

Mileage, however, is not Topic A

when it comes to the engine with a hemispherical combustion chamber and outside mystique.

"I plan on keeping this truck forever," said Chance Miller, 21, of Watauga. "I like something with all-American muscle."

Kyle LeBlanc drove in from Baton Rouge in "Le Hemi."

"It's a blast," said LeBlanc. "It's awesome as a daily driver."

The club will sponsor a burn-out contest at the Kennedale drag strip Friday night.

And the club's 65-year old senior member will presumably be there.

Said somebody, as a 520 horsepower nitrous engine roared on the dynamometer: "He's got one foot in the grave and one foot in the Hemi."

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