

1970 AAR Cuda....OWNER: Rick Higdon

1970 AAR CUDA PROFILE RICK HIGDON

In the late 1960's, Trans Am racing was hugely popular. Z28 Camaros, Boss 302 Mustangs, Javelins and Firebirds were all involved in Trans Am. Both Chrysler divisions wanted to highlight their cars and the Trans Am series was one



of the best ways to do it. This decision to get involved created two cars that could be bought from dealerships - the Plymouth AAR Cuda and the Dodge Challenger T/A.

To enter the series Plymouth had to



build 2,500 versions of its race car. They contracted Dan Gurney and his company All American Races (AAR) to build and race the Trans Am Cuda.

A fiberglass hood and rear spoiler were designed to go on both the racing and street versions. As well the AAR had a special beefed up engine block unique to the car.







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It had three two barrel carburetors on an aluminum edelbrock intake with special cylinder heads and valvetrain.



The suspension was also upgraded and special heavy duty rear springs were needed to raise the rear to allow for Trans Am style side exhaust and larger tires. The exhaust pipes and tips were actually transported in the trunk be-

cause they could get damaged in shipment on the car carriers. The appearance on the street was very aggressive. At the end of its production run just 2,724 AAR Cudas were built.

This particular car was bought originally in New Westminster B.C. The original dealer invoice shows it retailed for \$4965.80 which was a lot of money in 1970. It stayed in B.C. but supposedly headed stateside for a rotisserie restoration at one point. It has lots of documentation with two build sheets and 84,000 miles on the odometer.

The striking B5 blue exterior and interior really makes this car stand out. These cars epitomize the look of the pony car era and only Chrysler could come up with cars as radical as these.

