

Hutch's mission

David Soul calls on PC to help with Cuban resto

David Soul – Hutch from the cult 1970s TV show *Starsky and Hutch* – needs your help. He wants to restore the great American writer Ernest Hemingway's 1955 Chrysler New Yorker and bring it back to showroom condition in six months flat. But there are two problems. One: half the car is missing. And two: it's in Cuba – and it's not a moveable feast.

'The second "problem" is actually a blessing,' David told **PC**, 'because what the Cubans don't know about keeping old Yank barges going isn't worth knowing.' It means that, given the right parts, a June 2013 completion date is more than possible.

The car itself is a 1955 Chrysler New Yorker Deluxe convertible built on February 18, 1955. On Hemingway's orders it was shipped with specific options and colours – two-tone Navajo Orange with Desert Sand inserts (Code 46) – to the selling dealer in Havana. The engine was a C68 FirePower V8 married to a PowerFlite automatic.

Insurance documents and chassis plates held at the Hemingway Museum in Cuba prove the provenance of the vehicle, which Hemingway used on the island before returning to the States in 1960.

'It's a very special car with a grand future,' says David. 'Restoring it gives us a symbolic approach to his literary legacy as well as to the land and the people of Cuba. I work very closely with the folks at the Hemingway Museum and we are aiming to complete the restoration in time for the International Ernest Hemingway Conference in June – an event that draws aficionados from every corner of the planet to Havana.'

David and the team of Cuban restorers will be joining **PC** for the duration of the project and you'll be able to catch up with them in *Staff Car Sagas*. But we need help with spares. We have some funding in place

for transport costs but we need to find numerous trim, hood and brightwork parts to make this happen. Email Danny Hopkins at danny.hopkins@bauermedia.co.uk if you think you can help.

Gran Torino reunion

To help publicise the restoration, David agreed to a reunion. Not with *Starsky* but with the car that defined the show – a Ford Gran Torino GT. The Torinos used in *Starsky*

and *Hutch*, had a few tweaks. 'They stiffened the suspension and reworked the gear ratios to make the car handle and get off the line quickly,' says the UK-based actor. David's car in the series was a beaten up, beige 1973 Ford Galaxie 500. 'It was much better than the Torino,' he adds. 'That was good over short distances, but my Galaxie could beat it over a quarter of a mile.'

Driving through central London to the photoshoot at the Floridita Latin American

restaurant in Wardour Street, Soho, in the Torino with David in the passenger seat stopped traffic at every junction. 'Kind of surreal, isn't it,' was David's response. 'This is the first urban journey I've taken in a *Starsky* Torino in more than 35 years.'

THANKS TO
John Slack Torino owner
Star Car Hire www.starcarhire.co.uk
Floridita Restaurant www.floriditalondon.com



This is Ernest Hemingway's Chrysler in Cuba today. It has already had some bodywork repairs but needs parts to complete it.



'Driving through London in a Torino to publicise the Ernest Hemingway Chrysler project stopped the traffic'

It's what 'Papa' would have wanted

1 Hemingway Museum curator Ada Rosa with the Chrysler as found. Chrome and brightwork is damaged - new items would be preferable. **2** This is a 1955 Chrysler New Yorker Deluxe, as Ernest Hemingway would have ordered it. This car is to the standard we hope to achieve by June 2013.

