

The Straight Arrow



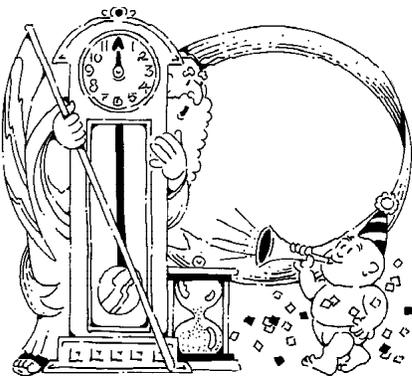
The Monthly Newsletter of the Pontiacs of Central California

January, 2002

www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org

Webmaster - Brian Massey

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Happy
New
Year

Presidents Message

Happy Holidays Everyone. For the January newsletter I am going to relay my own True Christmas story. As many of you know I buy and sell a Pontiac every once in a while, and though when I sell a vehicle I want the new owner to be perfectly happy with their new purchase, I sometimes never hear from them again and have to just assume(and hope) that they were satisfied with their purchase. This story has a happy ending.

As Many of you know ,Sam Troncoso (or as Ron pronounces it Troecoscosocoes) was the proud owner of a black 1957 Chieftain. He spent much time and money making this car one he could be proud of. As time passed, he came across a 1963 Bonneville Convertible, which he decided he would prefer over the Chieftain. Well, he sold the 57 to a fellow member, Mike Yoshihara, who enjoyed ownership of this black beauty for a few years (even drove away from his wedding in it). Then a deal was struck for the 57 to become mine. As with all my cars I planned to keep this old Pontiac for a long time, which I did, and then (3 months later) I decided to sell it to keep a 1964 Grand Prix (which I am also planned on keeping for a long time).

I decided to list the 57 for sale on the Internet on the eBay site. It turns out that a nice guy (Chris) from Ohio e-mailed me with a couple of questions about the Chieftain and mentioned that his Father, (a recovering cancer patient who lived in Tennessee) saw the auction and could swear the car was the reincarnation of the 57 he owned in the 60's. Chris told his dad to "bid" on it but his dad said he already had a 57 and didn't really need another old car. But just the picture of the black 57 brought back many memories and stories his dad related to Chris.

It turned out the 57 did not sell on eBay for the amount I thought it was worth, so as I was contemplating what to do next, Chris emailed me and told me he decided to buy the 57 for his dad as a surprise Christmas

present. We completed the arrangements and he had a transport come and take the 57 to Ohio. It turns out that Chris's dad is an active POCI member of a chapter in Tennessee. Chris made arrangements with a fellow POCI member in Tennessee to come to Ohio and trailer the 57 to Tennessee and help with having the car at his fathers house on Christmas morning.

Chris was nice enough to email me and say that the expression on his dad's face when he was called outside to help with a last minute present, the 57 all polished and with a red bow on top, was worth all the effort. After examining the car his dad was very impressed with the condition of this rust free California car. Chris even sent me some pictures of him and his dad standing by the car. I think this same story is being told in another POCI chapter newsletter.

So, you see, a couple of POCI members in California ended up making the Christmas of some other POCI members very special.



The 57 Chieftian now resides in Tennessee with its new owner.



Christmas Party A Singing Success

(Some even referred to it as a "Howling" Success)

We all need to thank Tina and Dave Valla for opening their home to us for our annual Christmas/Potluck Party. You could not have asked for a nicer setting for the occasion. They even went as far as to rewrite the lyrics to "The Twelve Days Of Christmas" for all the Pontiac enthusiast. They even included a small part for the Oldsmobile members of the club. The food was great as always and the Pirate Christmas gift "exchange" was exciting as the most sought after gifts were stolen from one member to another. Dennis Baker is now the proud owner of a 1964 GTO, he was even kind enough to take it out of the box and let us all play with it for a bit. Rich Jones and his Wife Trish led the singing with his great voice and her expert piano playing. She even brought music and lyrics for just about every Christmas song there is, and we ended up singing just about every one with Dennis Baker (I think this is where the "Howling" part comes in) making sure everyone sang on key. It was a great ending to another great year. Thanks again to everyone who participated and helped to make it so much fun

New Officers 2002

Here are your new officers for the Year 2002 . Let's remember to give them our full support and volunteer for those extra duties that come up during car shows and other club activities.

President-----Joel Garrett
Vice President-----Ron Berglund
Secretary -----Dennis Baker
Treasurer -----Bill Truckell
Newsletter -----Sam Fisher
Webpage -----Brian Massey
Activities -----Brian Massey



The Twelve Days of a Pontiac Christmas

On the first day of Christmas,
my true love gave to me.....

- 1 GTO With a 4-Speed
- 2 Bucket Seats
- 3 Rally Gauges
- 4 Custom Wheels
- 5 Bonneville
- 6 Quarts of Oil
- 7 Olds Convertibles
- 8 Platinum Spark Plugs
- 9 Old Grand Prix
- 10 Catalinas
- 11 Firebird TAs
- 12 Sarari Wagons



Car Show 2002 Getting Closer



The "Tri-Power" Car Show Committee had a meeting at the home of Ron & Marlene

Berglund. The show is shaping up to be a big one! We will have a DJ to play music, lots of food, and of course the new location to boast about. The foundation for the "new" show is now pretty much set. We made some changes to the classes, but not earth-shattering.

You can view the new classes on line at:

<http://www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org/show2002.htm>.

Some personnel changes have been made; Dennis Simonson is now in charge of getting the new logo (in addition to remaining in charge of the food), and Dennis Baker has taken over the Judging of the show; those were the two biggest changes we made. I'm sure both Dennises (are two Dennises a "Denise"?) will do very well at their new jobs.

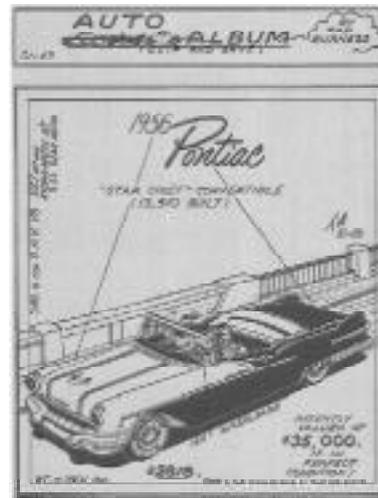
One thing I want to push this year is our (as a club) participation in other POCI club shows. For the past 3 years I have sat back and listened to members complain about the lack of participation our show gets from other POCI clubs; In the same time I have not seen our club participate in other POCI shows. It seems to me that if we expect others to come to our show, we need to get off our collective posteriors and go to theirs. I hope that others in this club will agree with me on this issue. Besides, we just might have a lot of fun going to other areas and shows. Sam Troncoso went to a show in Ventura last October (September?) and hasn't stopped talking about it yet! I think he had a lot of fun.

The next car show meeting time and place will be posted on our website. Feel free to join in!

Brian

1956 Pontiac a most desirable convertible from the fabulous '50s

By Tad Burness
Auto Album



The Pontiac of 1955 was a tough act to follow, since it had been totally and dramatically restyled, along with a new overheadvalve V-8 engine, which replaced the 1954 L-head sixes and straight-eights.

Nevertheless, there were improvements

in 1956: Styling was made more "orthodox," with more chrome on the gaping grill so that it looked like less of a dark hole. The dual bands of parallel chrome strips running forward along the hood still identified it as a Pontiac (thought this distinctive feature of Pontiac since 1935 would be removed in 1957, not to return - to the disappointment of some Pontiac aficionados),

The 1956 models available were the Chieftan 860 (Special), Chieftan 870 (Deluxe), Star Chief and Star Chief Custom. All models shared the 316.6 c.i.d. V-8 (increased from 1955's 287.2 c.i.d.), but compression ratios and carburetors varied, as did horsepower. The Chieftans with manual transmissions were rated at 192 horsepower at 4,400 rpm and 205 at 4,800 with HydraMatic.

Manual-transmission Star Chiefs had 216 horsepower at 4,800 rpm and 227 with HydraMatic. However, a beefed-up 1956^{1/2} V-8 engine was made available in March 1956 with 10-to-1 compression and dual four-barrel Rochester carburetors, and it kicked up 285 horsepower at a screaming 5,100 rpm. It's reported that only some 200 of these extra-power engines were sold before the 1957s

Upcoming Events

(POCC Club events are in bold).

POCC Club meetings are held at the Denny's on Shaw in Clovis. Meetings start at 7:30.

January:

January 14th - Monthly POCC club meeting

February:

February 1st-2nd - POCI show at Tustin, CA. More info to follow

February 11th - Monthly POCC club meeting

March:

March 11th - Monthly POCC club meeting

April:

April 15th - Monthly POCC club meeting

April 27th - Sixth Annual POCC all Pontiac, Buick, Oldsmobile and Cadillac Car Show in Madera.

May:

May 13th - Monthly POCC club meeting

September 27 - 29, 2002. The Channel Islands Chapter of POCI will host the Western Regional POCI car show at the Ventura Beach Hotel. Special room rates have been arranged. Additional information will follow.

came out that autumn with a new horsepower range of 227 to 317.

Pontiac assembly plants were located in the following states: Michigan, California, Texas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Kansas, New Jersey and Delaware.

By the way, the '56 Chieftan had a 2-inch-shorter wheelbase than the Star Chief.

(Reprinted from the Oct 27, 2001, Fresno Bee)

Classified

E-mail, snail mail or phone Sam Fisher, with anything you want listed in the classifieds. My e-mail, address and phone number are on the last page of the newsletter.

For Sale:

Two 389 CID cranks, 1964 and earlier. Can be turned 10/10, \$25.00 each. Pontiac screw in rocker studs, fits early 389 and 72-74 SD Trans Am, \$2.00 each. SD Trans Am gasket set, complete, \$40.00. Dennis Baker, (559) 322-8441.

1986 Fiero GT, black, AC, PW, 5 speed, 2.8 l V-6. \$2,500 OBO, Brian Massey, 645-8018.

16" wheels. Dennis Simonson, 299-8910.

65 LeMans, no engine or front bumper. Needs to be restored. \$1,000. Keith Blanchard, 432-1913.

66 GTO seat covers, door panels and carpet. Light aqua in color, excellent condition. Dave Valla, 292-9441.

1963 Full size Pontiac brake drums, set of four, 14" wheels and hub caps. All in excellent condition. \$125.00. Sam Troncoso, (559) 451-0869.

Mostly 68 to 70 Pontiac GTO and Le Mans parts but some earlier and later years also available:

Engines, transmissions, heads, complete disc break setups, carburetors, hood scoops, seat belts, hood hinges, dash knobs, GTO emblems, clocks, tachometers, complete dashes and more.

Call Dan Bresett (559 - 645-6602) or e-mail at "partsmandan@aol.com". Will ship parts to almost anywhere.



Pontiacs of Central California (POCC) is a club for owners and lovers of Pontiacs. The club members range from young guys with old cars (1957 Chieftain), old guys with old cars, young guys with new cars (1995 Firehawk), young gals with old cars, but no old guys with new cars, at least not yet. Club dues are \$24 per calendar year or \$2.00 for the remainder of any calendar year. Members must also join the Pontiac/Oakland Club International (POCI). POCI dues are \$25 per year and includes a subscription to the POCI monthly magazine - "Smoke Signals". The magazine alone is worth the \$25. It's full of interesting Pontiac stories, tips on doing Pontiac things, as well as free advertising for members. Since this magazine goes out world wide, it is a great place to find parts or that special Pontiac you have been searching for.



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Pontiacs of Central California Officers for 2002

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Newsletter	Sam Fisher	674-0821 fisher_s@madera.k12.ca.us
Activities	Brian Massey	645-8018 bjmassey@bigfoot.com

(All area codes are 559)

Club meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Denny's restaurant at 710 West Shaw in Clovis. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. Please feel free join us.