

# The Straight Arrow



The Monthly Newsletter of the Pontiacs of Central California  
September 2002

[www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org](http://www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org)  
Webmaster - Brian Massey

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# Presidents Message

Earlier this year I attended my first Nascar Winston Cup race. I have never been a big fan of Nascar racing, but a lot people said , once you see a race in person, you will become a fan. Well to tell the truth, I was not that impressed with the whole experience, and I am probably not going to attend another race. The reason I bring this up is not to debate the pros and cons of Nascar racing. (though I may address this at another time)but to discuss and maybe implement a new system to increase the attendance and membership interest in our club meetings and activities. You see, what kept me from being totally bored during the multiple races that were held that weekend( you see I don't drink beer) was that someone came up with the idea that everyone put a couple of bucks in a pool and are assigned random car #'s and their respective drivers and that if your driver won, bingo, you won the pot. What this accomplished is that I actually started paying attention to the race and actually gave a damn who was leading and what place "my" car was in. I did not win any of the pools, but it did help pass the time.

So what I propose is that every meeting, cruise night , club activity etc., we have a pool that everyone puts his money in and we see who comes the closest to the winning # and he or she walks away with the \$\$\$. Now you may ask what type of pool should we have??. Well , I have come up with a couple of suggestions and I hope you can come up with some more. Then at every activity, everyone will be paying close attention to what is happening so they will see if they have a winner.

Here are some of my suggestions in no particular order:

- The number of things Ron Berglund finds wrong with prospective members' cars or newly acquired cars of current members.
- The number of times Dan Seibert says "Lets vote on it" at a monthly meeting.
- The number of times someone will say " What's our website address?"

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# Minutes of the P.O.C.C August 12, 2002 meeting

The August meeting of the *Pontiacs of Central California* was called to order by our president Joel Garrett at 7:05 PM. (Tim & Judy time).

Our visitors for the evening were Ken and Judy Mueller with a 65 2+2 Tri-power 421, Andrew Williams who owns a 79 Firebird and Terry Weber with a 62 Catalina.

Also visiting tonight were Troy and Debbie Franklin who own *The Hot Rod Shop* in downtown Fresno and gave a nice presentation on their performance and restoration services offered through the shop. They are just getting started and would like to help out anyone working on or thinking about restoration needs or services. His goal is to eventually be a full time parts house.

Treasures report - the club is still in the black with 32 paid members.

Newsletter editor's report - the newsletter is on line. Anyone interested in receiving it online please email Sam "the print man" Fisher.

Web site Webmaster report - no report from Brian this month he's on vacation. We'll expect twice as much next month Brain.

Old Business - Name tags -Sam passed around a nametag and several proposals. A motion was S&A to do more research. Club t-shirts - there is one small left. Someone please buy it so we can get some more.

New Business - Our chapter was awarded the "POCI Chapter of the Year" and Joel was presented with a plaque for the chapter to display. Everyone in the club can have the plaque for one month to put on their wall.

Activities past:

Griggs Bar-B-Q

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(President's message continued)

- The number of times someone says "pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org"
- If Dennis Baker is going to bring Original or Extra Crispy to an activity
- How many times Bill Truckell will say "Streaker"
- What color car will Paul Duran drive this time
- How many cars did Richard Schmitz ALMOST buy that week
- How many cars did Joel buy that week
- How many names will Ron Berglund mispronounce at our car show
- How many times will Joel have to use the restroom at a certain activity
- How many times Janet Massey gets asked why she keeps bringing her father to every activity
- Whose car will break down and have Sam Troncoso fix it with a paper clip and scotch tape
- What date in December will it get cold enough for Dennis Simonson to wear long pants
- Whose car will leave the biggest puddle of coolant on the ground at a get together

These are just a start to some of the exciting pools we can have to peak member interest and participation. Please submit your ideas to our newsletter editor.

Editor's additions:

- How many times someone else will say "Streaker" to Bill

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Member

Welcome to our 33<sup>rd</sup> member. Terry and Susan Weber joined the club at our last meeting. They have a 1962 Pontiac Catalina two door. Be sure to greet Terry and Susan at the next meeting or event and make them feel welcome.

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(Minutes continued)

Hot August Nights

Up-coming activities:

Clovis Farmers Market -Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>

Gathering of the Goats - San Pedro date unknown

Cherry Auction - Sept. 15

POCI Western Regionals - September 27-29

Wish Upon a Star - Sept 28

Ronald McDonald -58 Chevy Convertible Give-away at Saturn of Fresno - Sept 21<sup>st</sup>

Toys for Tots - Nov 9<sup>th</sup>

Christmas party -TBA

The \$10 progressive attendance raffle winner was Dennis Baker, who just happened to be there taking minutes. So next months raffle will start again at \$10.

Respectfully,

Dennis Baker

Secretary

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## POCC Wins Best Chapter Award

POCC won the Best Chapter award, Senior Division (up to 50 members), at the 2002 POCI National Convention in Charleston, WV. Joel was surprised as well as pleased to receive a plaque and the news that we had been awarded this honor. We are not really sure what we did to win the award but accept it with thanks and gratitude. We also notice there were awards for best newsletter and website that we might participate in for 2003.

# Mags and Dreams

Andy Hoff

Having driven my '67 for the last two years with painted steel wheels and 'dog dish' hubcaps, I decided to move on to something new. My original plan was to recreate a GTO that the average teenager would have seen at the lot and thought, "great, no options, just speed."

The 'plain jane' look came out just like I had hoped it would. It did look lean and mean. However, I was surprised how invisible the car was at your typical cruise in or open car show. While the Pontiac fanatics appreciated the 'stripped down' look, and almost no one pointed out that, with my original color of silver, the wheels should have been black, most other folks would rather look at the Fairlane GT with chrome wheels or the red Chevelle with Centerlines.

When the car was just a month old back in '67, I used my hard earned wages to buy a pair of 14 by 6 inch Unilug mags. Why just a pair? Because I couldn't afford another \$60.00 for the other two! I put the new wheels on the front and popped those dog dishes off the back for a real street race look. My dad killed me. His first reaction was, "what in the hell are those and where did they come from?" After he cooled down, he did ask if two more wheels were in the works, and I assured him that, with my next paycheck, the look would be complete. After all four were mounted, I think he thought they looked pretty cool.

Back to the present. I knew that someday I would want a set of American Mag Torque Thrust D's for my GTO. I couldn't afford them in '67. And, when I started looking two years ago I realized I couldn't afford them now! If you have ever priced vintage American's, you were probably shocked at the prices. It isn't unusual to see a set at a swap meet and, after you get up the courage to ask the price, be told anywhere from \$800 to \$1200. Typically, these prices are for a refurbished set. You can often find cruddy pairs for \$300 or sets of four for \$500, but they need cleaning and polishing.

I was cruising the Turlock swap meet eighteen months ago with Joel, Michael and Scott when I found my set. With two almost new tires and two almost used up



tires, I was able to get the seller down to \$480. Joel, in a particularly generous mood, bought the tires for a Duster Michael was driving for \$60 or \$80, can't remember exactly. Anyway, that put me on board for around \$400. The wheels were 14 by 7, early 70's vintage American's. And, they were 'disk brake' compatible, a key point when you are trying to fit up an older set of wheels.

I knew I wanted the wheels mounted for our April Bonander show. After a few calls for polishing services, I was lucky to find Carroll's Tire in Clovis. They did a beautiful job for \$20 per wheel. The only other place I could find wanted \$60 per wheel.

A few other hitches arose. The front wheels

had to be balanced twice to move the tape weights inboard of the disk brake mounting bracket. Trust me, even work with a high speed, compressor driven grinding wheel and a hand file couldn't make much of a dent in that bracket. Just as easy to have the wheels rebalanced (which Carroll's did for free!).

Just two days before our show, I remounted the wheels and took the car out for a spin. Only problem is that as I left my shop I only made right turns to go around the block, which produced no problems at all.....until I came back and made a left turn to go back into the barn. Pretty nice scraping sound from the front right. After inspection, I determined that the mild positive offset of the wheels just moved the tire close enough to the leading edge of the right front fender, to produce a serious "tire-to-body-scrape." (this same problem occurred back in '67 when the original Unilugs were mounted. I fixed that with a pair of channel lock pliers and a little muscle). Now, it is about 9:30 PM Thursday night and I don't have any time Friday night to fix this before driving up to Madera on Saturday. What do I do?

Most people know how obsessive I am about



my car, right? Well, I determined that if I used a hack saw and cut a slot for one of the lower fender mounting holes, I could "adjust" the fender outward and eliminate the interference. I did it. Fortunately, the bolt washer hides the sacrilege.

This is a long way around the block to report that people loved the car with mags. Many more questions about the car, the paint, the tires, wheels, etc. than ever before. I am happy.....and not quite done. It appears that the left rear wheel lip just rubs a little. This weekend its "fire up the die grinder and shave off a 1/4 inch."

I guess we will all do what needs to be done to get "the look." Happy motoring.

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## **The Fresno City Fire Fighter's**

**are please to announce The Fourth Annual  
Chili Cook-off, to be held at Fresno State  
on Sept. 14, 2002**

**We would like to take this opportunity to  
invite you to display your Classic Car or  
Harley Motorcycle and take part in this  
worthwhile event.**

**The money that has been raised the previous  
years from ticket sales, corporate sponsor-  
ship, and from the sale of commemorative  
Tee Shirts has been donated to the burn  
survivors and their families.**

**The Community Regional Burn Center cares  
for patients, many of them children, from  
the seven surrounding counties: Fresno,  
Mariposa, Madera, Kings, Kern, Tulare and  
San Luis Obispo.**

**"There will be a \$10.00 entry fee for this  
event!"**

**For Displaying your Car or Harley Motorcycle  
you will receive:**

- 1 - Event T-Shirt**
- 2 - Passes into the Chili Cook-off**
- And a Great Goodie Bag.**

**If you are interested in more information**

**Please contact: Kacey Coulter**

**At (559) 908-6375**

**See insert for registration form.**

# Upcoming Events

(POCC Club events are in bold).

POCC Club meetings are held at the Denny's at 710 West Shaw in Clovis. Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

## **September:**

September 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> - Cherry's Jubilee

### **September 9<sup>th</sup> - Monthly POCC club meeting**

September 14 - Fresno City Fire Fighters 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off to benefit the Community Regional Burn Center. See page 5 for more details and insert for registration form.

September 21 - 9th Annual Collector Car Drawing & car show to benefit Ronald McDonald House. Show starts at 5:00 pm at Fresno Saturn Dealership on Blackstone. Raffle car is a '58 Chevy Impala convertible. Call (559) 447-6300 for tickets and info.

### **September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Cruise nite at the Malt Shop, Blackstone and Nees. Setup at 6:00 pm.**

**September 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. The Channel Islands Chapter of POCI will host the Western Regional POCI car show at the Ventura Beach Hotel. Several of us will be cruising down together on Friday, September 27. Full details of when and where to meet will follow. Unfortunately by the time you read this newsletter the registration deadline of September 6 will have past.**

September 28 - Wish Upon a Star

## **October:**

**October 14<sup>th</sup> - Monthly POCC club meeting.**

**October 19 - Mystery Cruise planned by Dan "the Man". As in the past this will be a dinner event. Full details will be**

**available in the October newsletter or check the website.**

**October 27<sup>th</sup> - Cruise nite at the Malt Shop, Blackstone and Nees. Setup at 6:00 pm.**

## **November:**

**November 9<sup>th</sup> - POCC Third Annual Toy's for Tots car show and shine. From 11 am to 3 pm at the Toys R Us parking lot at Shaw and Sunnyside in Clovis. Entry fee at least one unwrapped toy, \$10 or better. Contact Brian (559 645-8018 or [bjmassey@bigfoot.com](mailto:bjmassey@bigfoot.com)) for more info.**

**November 11<sup>th</sup> - Monthly POCC club meeting**

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## New Meeting Time

**Just in case you missed it last month. The meeting time has changed.** It was discussed and approved at the July meeting to move the start of our monthly club meetings from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm, starting with the August meeting.

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## Newsletters on Web

We have now posted past newsletters on the web site. All future newsletters will also be posted as they are completed. Currently all of the 2002 newsletters are there. They have been converted into PDF format that you can read, download or print with Adobe Acrobat Reader. This is a free program that usually comes with all new computers. At least it does with Macintoshes and I'm sure with most Windows machines as well. You can now see those newsletter pictures of our events in color.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically let me know. I will set up a distribution list and then e-mail you the newsletter as soon as it is completed each month.

# The New "Goat"

I know you have all been waiting for this, so here goes. As you can probably tell from the pictures this is a very unusual GTO. It features "a" bucket seat, that fully reclines with seat belt and submarine strap to keep you from sliding out during those high speed stops. It is a wide track, with dual tires in front, and a much sought after convertible. Although the convertible top is not powered it is very easy to get up and down with only one



Another Happy Pontiac Owner.

hand. It has a one people powered or two legged engine. The acceleration and top speed have a lot to do with the age and actual number of miles on the engine in use at the time. Fortunately engine changes can be made in a matter of seconds. The transmission is a fully automatic "His-N-Hers", again depending on the engine in use at the time. While it does not have a center console, kind of hard with one seat, it does have a front tray and two cup holders. Steering wheel as well as other accessories can be easily attached to the front tray. We think the 6.5 Liter on the badge has something to do with diaper capacity, but to date that information has not been released.



Nothing like cruising through the mall with the top down, the wind in your hair.

# For Sale

**Weather striping** for all makes and models. Call Dennis Baker, (559) 322-8441.

**Tempest, GTO & LeMans** 1964 to 1967 parts. Fender, bumpers, deck lid, doors, some trim, emblems and tail lights. Call Andy Hoff at (559) 298-4527 for complete list and prices.

**Everlasting punching bag**, weight 80# Excellent shape [like new] Call Dennis Simonson at (559) 299-8910 for more info.

**1966 GTO**, 4-speed - \$10,500 and **1967 GTO**, new paint, His/Hers auto - \$18,950. Call Greg Griggs at (559) 322-4005 for full details.

**Holly carb**, 800 cfm double pumper Quadrajets replacement. Rebuilt and ready to install - \$100. 1964 Pontiac fullsize body, chassis and owners manuals - \$50 for all. Call Dan Seibert at (559) 638-4866.

**Two 14" x 6" Pontiac GTO** steel stock wheels - \$20 for pair. **Bias Tires and Tubes** for your all original antique. Call Gene Clarey at (559) 323-9280 for all details.

# Wanted

**1987-88 Fiero GT**. Want a 90+ point car, price open. Contact Tim Saltzman at (209) 988-7499

**Bumper jack** for 1966 GTO. Need the stand and jacking mechanism. Call David Valla at (559) 292-9441.

**Looking for an used children's swing set**. Contact Dennis Simonson (559) 299-8910



Pontiacs of Central California (POCC) is a club for owners and lovers of Pontiacs. The club members range from young guys and gals to old guys, who own all types of Pontiacs from the Muscle to the Luxury cars. A few members don't even own Pontiacs, they simply like them. Club dues are \$24 per calendar year or \$2.00 per month 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.



Sam Fisher  
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### Pontiacs of Central California Officers for 2002

President	Joel Garrett	292-9130 calbug61@aol.com
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Newsletter	Sam Fisher	674-0821 fisher_s@madera.k12.ca.us
Activities Webpage	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 7:00 pm. Please feel free join us.