

# The Straight Arrow



The Monthly Newsletter of the Pontiacs of Central California  
August 2010

[www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org](http://www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org)  
Webmaster - Brian Massey - [bjmassey@bigfoot.com](mailto:bjmassey@bigfoot.com)



Schools are opening earlier  
each year, drive carefully.

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# President's Message

## My First Pontiac

In early 1972, I began my search for what would be my first car. I had been saving for this event for several years with money I had earned while working in my father's service station.

Since my family had always owned General Motors products, it was only natural that my first automobile would be A GM product. My parents had owned several Pontiacs over the years. The ones I recall are a 1959 Star Chief, a 1963 Bonneville, and a 1969 Catalina. I decided I wanted a Pontiac also. A GTO of 1966 to 1970 vintage would do nicely!

We skimmed the ads in the Fresno Bee for several weeks, but most of the cars we looked at were of mediocre condition, had too many miles on the odometer, or the price was not within my budget. The fact that my dad did not like the thought of his son driving a GTO was not helping the process either. Our insurance agent said "talk him out of it if you can". So we began looking at other models as well.

A Grand Prix seemed like a good compromise. It had the same engine as a GTO, but was classified as luxury car by the insurance company.

After examining several Grand Prix's, we finally found a car that appeared to be in excellent condition. The car was a 1969 Model "J" with 27,000 on the odometer.

After examining the car on a Friday night, the owner agreed to bring it by our service station the next day for a more thorough inspection. Much to my delight, the Grand Prix looked as good in the daylight as it had the previous night. Coincidentally, the owner happened to be a relative of one of our customers. We negotiated a price and I became the proud owner of a 1969 Pontiac Grand Prix.

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# Minutes of July 12, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by our Club President, Dave Valla.

Dave introduced our guest:

Matthew and Michael King, Carmen Perez from Wish Upon a Star, and Melanie Pursell and her father, Claude Carter, who thanked the club for our help in making his #60 Birthday Bash a success. The Club thanked him for the wonderful evening and dinner.

The club presented a check to Wish Upon a Star. (picture enclosed) in memory of Ken Mueller. Carmen thanked us for the check and also invited us to a Dinner, Dance, Car show in Visalia on Sept. 25th at the Visalia airport Hanger. It will be a BBQ and will be held from 5-11.

Minutes were approved from our June 14, 2010 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Truckell reports that we have 43 members and 16 associates.

Newsletter Update Sam Fisher is doing the newsletter for the summer. He was not present.. If you did not receive the current e-mailed copy of the newsletter, you can download it from the club website.

Webmaster Report: Brian Massey reported that we are getting lots of hits on our site. We had 742 hits in the month of April. He turned in two checks to Bill Truckell for ads on our website.

Old Business: None to report.

New Business: Christmas Party, Paula Yost, and her committee, Mary Walter, Marlene Berglund and Cheryl Richards will be planning the Christmas Party for the Club.

Randy Beavers reported on a Sept., Friday night Anniversary Party for the Alzheimer's

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Minutes continued.....

Section at Marks and Bullard. He will report as more information becomes available.

Past Activities:

Pursell's Birthday Bash

Lawson Motor sports tour. Keith Watts said there were approx 60 cars at the tour.

Ladies Luncheon, Was A Happy Birthday party for Tina Valla at B.J's. Restaurant.

Fats Jack's In Clovis, 6 cars were present.

Club night at Chubby's

Future Activities:

July 28th Ladies Luncheon 11:00 at Bentley's at the corner of Bullard and West. Paula Yost is the Birthday Girl for the month of July.

August 6th Club night at Fat Jack's

August 14- Club Night at Chubby's

August 21 will be a club event, at the Elks Club in Clovis for Hot August Daze. Carl Smith will be the contact person, It is a dinner dance the night before. Dinner is \$15.00 in advance and \$18.00 at the door. Day of show registration begins at 8:00 A. M.

Sept. 3

Club night at Fat Jack's at 5:30

There are several events going on in September, The show at the National Guard Hanger, We will have more information at the next meeting.

Chowchilla Car Show

We all congratulated Bill & Cheryl on their new addition, a dirty '67 GTO, that has been sitting in a garage for twenty years. I think it has a four speed and a bench. Hope that means lots to some of you.

Joel Garrett turned fifty and Ginger is turning forty.

President's Message continued.....

My Grand Prix had the 400 c.i.d. engine with a quadrajet carburetor and was white with a black vinyl top and black interior. It was equipped with air conditioning, power brakes with discs on the front and Rally II wheels. Shortly after I purchased the car, the Rally II's were replaced with a set of Ansen Sprint mags. These were the trendy wheels to have back then. If I were to purchase a similar vehicle today, I would undoubtedly replace those mag wheels with a set of Rally II wheels. My how times and tastes change!

I hope to see all of you at the August meeting.

Dave Valla

2010 President, P.O.C.C.

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Dennis invited everyone Tuesday night from 5 - 7 at Sal's Mexican Restaurant at Champlain and Perrin to stop by and wish Ginger a Happy Birthday.

Paul Castro showed us a video and thanked us for the Leukemia Team in Training Bike Ride. His company, Novartis had thirty people participated and raised \$150,000. He showed us a video of the ride, which was 100 miles and took from 6-10 hours.

Attendance Drawing was won by Bill Truckell. The amount was \$10.00

Meeting adjourned at 7:50. The next meeting will be August 9th at the Yosemite Falls Restaurant.

Respectfully

Paula Yost, Secretary

# THE BELMONT

## Concours d' Eleganza 2010

### View from a Judge

The second annual The Belmont Concours d' Eleganza was recently held in June at the Belmont County Club in Fresno. The definition for Concours is a gathering or parade of the elegant. And, yes indeed, there were several Beautiful Cars. Many years ago, the gentry in several European countries assembled periodically to admire each other's magnificent horse drawn carriages and coaches. The finest examples of the coach builder's crafts were given awards. When the horseless carriage came along, the art of the coach builder was put to good use the building of bodies for the new contraptions. In 1973, the late Douglas B. Judy, whose interest and lifelong loves were antique, classic and sports automobiles, shared his dreams of bringing a Concours to Fresno with the Littlest Angels Chapter of Children's Home Society of California as the sponsor and beneficiary. From this association, a Concours d' Elegance was started. In 1985, the sponsorship of the Concours was proposed to the East Fresno Rotary. The East Fresno Rotary kept the gala event going until the year 2007. In 2009, a group of car enthusiast was formed and started The Belmont Concours d' Elegance.

I first started to attend Concours several years before ever becoming a car club member. After joining The Pontiacs of Central California, the club would go to the Concours as a group and show their cars or park in the car corral. Several years ago, I was asked to help car judging at the Concours. I was a little anxious about the opportunity but was very satisfied at the end of the day. My team mates for the first time were Butch and Shirley Wright. They have been involved in judging for years and were very knowledgeable about several types of vehicles.

Butch and Shirley gave me the confidence to judge again. This year, the Wright's were head judges at The Belmont. My first time judging also made me many new friends. In addition to Butch and Shirley, I got to know Ron Berglund's judging abilities as he has been judging Concours for years. Ron is an expert on Model A & T Fords along with all American brand cars. Working as a team provides the best results when judging several cars in one class. Team work also pays off when the team is selected to judge several classes in one day.

All cars judged at the Concours are inspected by a team of judges. Each car engine, chassis, interior, and exterior are inspected. A judge can question the owner about the car and if that was a factory item added. Adding a mirror for safety usually will not deduct points? Cars misrepresented rarely make it to the field, but the judges can be flinty-eyed. So, originality is critical in car restoration.

There is also an overall presentation of vehicle section on the judge's sheet. When checking the exterior, the under side of the car is also inspected. The owner must start the car, turn on lights, blinkers and brake lights if applicable. Doors are opened and closed. If the car is a convertible, the judge may ask to have the top put down. The condition of the paint, chrome, rugs, upholstery is checked. The engine compartment is checked for oil, water, and fuel leaks. Each car begins with 100 points. Judges deduct points for any flaw found. Judging is based on authenticity, as well as elegance. At this point, you could say that the vehicle you brought to the Concours should be nicer than the day it left the factory in which it was made. Also, each car is judged on its own merits rather than on a comparative basis. One of my most challenging tasks was



when I and another judge were asked to judge the Vipers. There were 17 Vipers in the class and all the owners were sitting behind their cars watching our every move or jester. Many owners who bring their cars to the Concours consider that as theirs is a unique and special creation. My judging friend and I had to decide what was going to be judged on each car because each Viper had different wheels and factory extras on them. One of the Vipers only had five actual miles on it. One of the owners was incensed when finding out he won nothing. After the judging and trophies were handed out, it was pointed out to him that a razor blade was left inside the front cowling of the car when someone had added pin striping on the outside. And when it was all over, we were complimented by other Viper owners that, yes indeed, we picked the right car for first place.

This year I was again asked to help with car judging. Ron Berglund, Dennis Baker and I judged the Exotic Class. All of the owners of the cars were very friendly and fun to work with when judging their vehicle. There were Jaguars, Lamborghinis, Corvettes, Ford GT, to name a few. When working with a team, you can step away from the car being judged and talk over your concerns about the vehicle, then move forward from there. Judges usually look over the whole class of cars before going to each one to judge. This gives the judge an overview of the car to be judged. A great Concours d' Elegance automobile is a combination of beauty, accuracy of restoration, and an indefinable mélange of "star" qualities. But above all, a car must reflect its own period, especially in matters of color and decoration. The Exotic Class winner we picked this year was a very nice Lamborghini. I enjoyed my experience again this year as one of the judges at the Belmont Concours d' Elegance.

Dennis Simonson

## POCC Donation To Wish Upon A Star



Pictured left to right: Dave Valla, POCC President; Carmen Perez, Wish Upon A Star Director; Carl Smith, 2010 Car Show Director.

After the 2010 Central Valley Classic Car Show last April when the dust settled, and all the bills paid, club members voted to donate the proceeds to **Wish Upon A Star**. This organization grants wishes to children with catastrophic illnesses; mainly from here in our own Central Valley. This donation was made in memory of Ken Mueller, a POCC member who recently passed away. Ken's grand daughter is a leukemia survivor, and during the families ordeal was also the recipient of a wish from this great organization. We were proud to make this donation, and proud to do it in Ken's name. Pontiacs of Central California would like to thank Don Bonander of Bonander's Vintage GM Dealership in Madera who's generous support of our club and our car shows made this donation possible.

This donation makes a grand total of \$14,000.00 that POCC has donated to help children with catastrophic illnesses.

# Upcoming Events

POCC monthly meetings are held at the Yosemite Falls Cafe, Highway 99 and Ashlan. Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

## August

**6th: Friday Night Cruise:** Meet at Fat Jack's in Clovis for dinner and some tire kickin' at 6:00PM.

**9th: General Membership Meeting;** Yosemite Falls Café, located at 4278 West Ashlan Ave in Fresno.

**14th: Chubby's Cruise:** 5:30pm Meet at the Chubby's at First and Gettysburg. We will gather here on the second Saturday for the season.

**21st: Club event, at the Elks Club** in Clovis for Hot August Daze. Carl Smith will be the contact person, It is a dinner dance the night before. Dinner is \$15.00 in advance and \$18.00 at the door. Day of show registration begins at 8:00 A. M.

## September

**3rd: Friday Night Cruise:** Meet at Fat Jack's in Clovis for dinner and some tire kickin' at 6:00PM.

**11th: Chubby's Cruise:** 5:30pm Meet at the Chubby's at First and Gettysburg. We will gather here on the second Saturday for the season.

**13th: General Membership Meeting;** Yosemite Falls Café, located at 4278 West Ashlan Ave in Fresno.

## October

**1st: Friday Night Cruise:** Meet at Fat Jack's in Clovis for dinner and some tire kickin' at 6:00PM.

# For Sale

**1965 Lemans front end** complete with bumper. Some surface rust because of old thin paint. There is no other rust, it is solid and straight, Great Calif Parts. Can be a GTO with hood change. I would like to trade for a 71/72 Endura front end, hood, head lights ect. for my Lemans Sport conv. Pictures on request via e-mail. Contact Dan @ 559-908-1450

**Tempest, GTO & LeMans** 1964 to 1967 parts. Left & right fenders, some trim, lenses and miscellaneous parts. Call Andy Hoff at (559) 298-4527 for complete list and prices.

**Miscellaneous 69 Firebird parts.** Convertible brackets, pump and cylinders. Hood, tail lights, dash, grills, rear seat springs and console. Also a 66 GTO rear bumper and miscellaneous trim. Call Victor Weitzel at (559) 760-2313.

**Weather striping, seat covers, head liners,** sun visors, seat belts and carpets for most makes and models. Call Dennis Baker, (559) 322-8441.

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**8th-9th:** The Great Cayucos Trip! Thanks again to Bill Truckell and Judy Kaspar POCC will be spending a wonderful weekend in Cayucos! Great Bon Fire! Great BBQ! Great Fun!!!

? To be rescheduled; **Chubby's Cruise:** 5:30pm Meet at the Chubby's at First and Gettysburg. We will gather here on the second Saturday for the season. (Is the season over yet??)

**11th: General Membership Meeting;** Yosemite Falls Café, located at 4278 West Ashlan Ave in Fresno. Be sure to be present; this is the meeting we nominate officers for 2010!



## Some Pontiacs Still Available At Vintage In Madera



First is a 2006 Pontiac Grand Prix GXP. It has 52,000 miles. This GXP edition is a head turner. The car was sold new from our dealership and is a one owner. You really

need to see this car to appreciate it. From the red powder coated disc brake calipers and cross drilled brake rotors to the rear doors that opens a full 90degrees so you can actually get stuff in and out this is just a really nice car. The GXP edition also comes with the 5.7L displacement on demand v8 engine which has way more horsepower than you would ever need. Yet at the same time when just cruising down the freeway the computer shuts down cylinders so you run in 4 cylinder mode saving gas. The



wheels are awesome forged aluminum made by Alcoa. The tread is like new and very aggressive sport

tread pattern. The seats are black leather with suede inserts to hold you in. They are also power and heated. There is a heads up display that gives speed and other data that appears as a hologram out side the windshield. The rear seats fold flat as does the passenger seat giving this car tons of storage room. It has a sunroof, cd changer, data center, thumb paddle sport shifters so

you can shift like a manual transmission if you want with the tap of your thumb. It has the upgraded Monsoon speaker system as well. I can't say enough about it, you should really test drive it to feel the power and handling.



Next is a 2008 Pontiac G8 GT, it has 15,000 miles and is still under factory warranty as well as being a one owner. It has the 6.0L V8 engine, power seats, CD

changer, Two tone red/black interior, sport shift transmission, remote start, dual climate zone AC, etc.



Then our Last new Pontiac we will ever sell. It's a 2009 Pontiac G6 GT coupe. It has the sun and sound package that comes

with the sunroof, cd changer, aux jack and 17" chrome wheels.



# PONTIACS



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 \$31 per year and includes a subscription to the POCI monthly magazine - "Smoke Signals". The magazine alone is worth the \$31. 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.

## Pontiacs of Central California Officers

President	Dave Valla	292-9441 dagodavesgto@sbcglobal.net
Vice Pres.	Sam Fisher	664-9431 fisher_s@unwiredbb.com
Secretary	Paula Yost	431-1564 yostpaula@aol.com
Treasurer	Bill Truckell	226-4049 billtruckell@sbcglobal.net
Activities	Joel Garrett	765-4865 calbug61@aol.com
Newsletter	Barbara Senior	683-2730 barbara_nicholas@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Brian Massey	645-8018 bjmassey2@gmail.com

(All area codes are 559-)

Club meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Yosemite Falls Cafe, Highway 99 and Ashlan Ave in Fresno, CA. Meetings starts at 7:00 pm.



August 2010

Sam Fisher  
11357 Highway 145  
Madera CA 93637

