



The Straight Arrow



**The Monthly Newsletter of the Pontiacs of Central California
Pontiac Oakland Club International Chapter #67
www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org**

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Contents

**President's Message ~~ Upcoming Events ~~ October Meeting Minutes
Auto Trends Show ~~ Constitution & ByLaws ~~ Gold Cup Show**



Pontiacs of Central California
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President's Message

IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN. WE WILL BE VOTING ON NEW OFFICERS AS WE DO EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME. I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO BE PRESENT AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING ON NOV 14TH IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A SAY IN THE ELECTION OUTCOME.

MY TERM AS POCC'S PRESIDENT IS COMING TO AN END. I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED MY STORIES OF THINGS THAT I DID THROUGH OUT MY LIFE AS MUCH AS I ENJOYED WRITING THEM. IT WAS QUITE AN EXPERIENCE FOR ME, AND I NOW FEEL BETTER AND MORE CONFIDENT IN MYSELF AS A LEADER OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE.

WE WILL BE HAVING OUR ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS CAR SHOW ON THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER. I WAS TOLD THAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE TWO MARINES PRESENT BUT I'M NOT QUITE SURE ABOUT HAVING ANY EQUIPMENT AGAIN THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE CUTS IN SPENDING.

BECAUSE OF THE GOOD WEATHER WE HAVE BEEN HAVING, I EXPECT GOOD WEATHER, BUT DON'T COUNT ON IT. AS WE ALL KNOW, MOTHER NATURE PLAYS TRICKS ON US.

I HOPE TO SEE A NICE TURNOUT FOR THE SHOW AS PARTICIPATION IS A BIG FACTOR IN THE QUALITY AND THE SUCCESS OF AN AUTO CLUB.



AND NOW SOME MORE PONTIAC HISTORY: THE 1973 PONTIAC GTO SPORT COUPE

ONCE AGAIN AN OPTION PACKAGE FOR THE LEMANS, THE 1973 GTO SHARED THE RESKINNED A-BODY WITH ITS "COLONNADE" HARDTOP STYLING, WHICH ELIMINATED TRUE HARDTOP DESIGN BECAUSE OF THE ADDITION OF A ROOF PILLAR BUT RETENTION OF FRAMELESS DOORWORK. REAR SIDE WINDOWS WERE NOW OF A FIXED DESIGN THAT COULD NOT BE OPENED AND IN A TRIANGULAR SHAPE. NEW FEDERAL LAWS FOR 1973 DEMANDED FRONT BUMPERS CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING 5-MILE-PER-HOUR IMPACTS WITH NO DAMAGE TO THE

BODY (5 MPH REAR BUMPERS BECAME STANDARD IN 1974). THE RESULT WAS THE USE OF PROMINENT AND HEAVY CHROME BUMPERS FRONT AND REAR. THE OVERALL STYLING OF THE 1973 PONTIAC A-BODY INTERMEDIATES (LEMANS, LUXURY LEMANS, GTO AND GRAND AM) WAS GENERALLY NOT WELL RECEIVED BY THE CAR BUYING PUBLIC.

IN CONTRAST, THE PONTIAC GRAND PRIX AND CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO, WHICH WERE ALSO DERIVED FROM THE INTERMEDIATE A-BODY, WERE MUCH BETTER RECEIVED BECAUSE OF THEIR SQUARED-OFF STYLING AND FORMAL ROOFLINES WITH VERTICAL WINDOWS. PONTIAC'S SISTER DIVISION, OLDSMOBILE, RECEIVED BETTER REVIEWS FROM THE AUTOMOTIVE PRESS AND THE CAR-BUYING PUBLIC WITH THE SIMILAR-BODIED CUTLASS.

AGAIN, THE 1973 GTO OPTION WAS OFFERED ON TWO MODELS INCLUDING THE BASE LEMANS COUPE OR THE LEMANS SPORT COUPE. THE BASE LEMANS COUPE FEATURED A CLOTH-AND-VINYL OR ALL-VINYL BENCH SEAT WHILE THE MORE LAVISH LEMANS SPORT COUPE HAD ALL-VINYL INTERIORS WITH STRATO BUCKET SEATS OR A NOTCHBACK BENCH SEAT WITH FOLDING ARMREST. THE LEMANS SPORT COUPE ALSO HAD LOUVERED REAR SIDE WINDOWS FROM THE GRAND AM IN PLACE OF THE STANDARD TRIANGULAR WINDOWS OF THE BASE LEMANS.

THE STANDARD 400 CID V8 IN THE 1973 GTO WAS FURTHER REDUCED IN COMPRESSION TO 8.0:1, DROPPING IT TO 230 HP. THE 400 ENGINE WAS AVAILABLE WITH ANY OF THE THREE TRANSMISSIONS INCLUDING THE STANDARD THREE-SPEED MANUAL, OR OPTIONAL FOUR-SPEED OR TURBO HYDRAMATIC. THE 455 CID V8 REMAINED OPTIONAL BUT WAS DROPPED TO 250 HP AND AVAILABLE ONLY WITH THE TURBO HYDRAMATIC TRANSMISSION. THE 455 HO ENGINE DID

NOT REAPPEAR, BUT GM INITIALLY ANNOUNCED THE AVAILABILITY OF A SUPER DUTY 455 ENGINE (SHARED WITH THE CONTEMPORARY PONTIAC TRANS AM SD455), AND SEVERAL SUCH CARS WERE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TESTING, IMPRESSING REVIEWERS WITH THEIR POWER AND FLEXIBILITY. NEVERTHELESS, THE SUPER DUTY WAS NEVER ACTUALLY OFFERED FOR PUBLIC SALE IN THE GTO. ALSO, EIGHT 455SD GRAND AMs WERE ALSO BUILT FOR TESTING AND EVENTUALLY ALL WERE DESTROYED AS WELL.

SALES DROPPED TO 4,806, DUE IN PART TO COMPETITION FROM THE NEW GRAND AM AND THE LACK OF PROMOTION FOR THE GTO. BY THE END OF THE MODEL YEAR AN EMERGING ENERGY CRISIS QUASHED CONSUMER INTEREST IN MUSCLE CARS.

JACK FUSARI, POCC PRESIDENT



Upcoming Events

November

- 5th - Toys for Tots, Club Car Show
- 14th - Meeting, 7pm, Yosemite Falls Café
Voting on 2012 Officers
Voting on Constitution/Bylaws
- 18-20th - Auto Trends Show, Fresno
- 23th - Ladies Luncheon, TBA

December

- 10th - Club Christmas Party, Ranchos Cafe
- 11th - 50th Place Pot Luck

January

- 10th - Meeting, 7pm, Yosemite Falls Café
- 26th - Ladies Luncheon, TBA

Revised Constitution & Bylaws

Included as additional attachments with this newsletter are the updated Constitution and Bylaws and a Proxy ballot. The new Constitution & Bylaws will be voted on at the November 14th meeting. If you cannot attend, please use the Proxy ballot to vote. Print it, make your vote, and send it to Sam Fisher at the address listed on the Proxy. To have your vote recorded, Sam must receive the signed Proxy before November 14th.

Cayucos trip

Even though the club trip was canceled, Tom & Paula, Janet & Brian, Joelle & Victor had a nice time in Cayucos. Friday night they enjoyed a nice fish dinner in Cayucos, and they spent the next day touring the Hearst Castle and exploring Morro Bay.

By Paula Yost

Motor Trend Auto Shows - Victor Weitzel

was contacted by the November 18th - 20th Auto Show in Fresno. They are looking for cars, and asked if we would like to display cars on Sunday November 20th. They are looking for any Classics, stock or modified, and cool late models that may be modified. The deadline for participating was October 28. Contact Victor or Ron Berglund for more information.

The Gold Cup Show - Jack & Sue Fusari

and Sam & Elaine Fisher participated. Jack said it was a very good show, held late in the day, lasting until 9pm. There were lots of lookers, and Sam's car took First Place in the Muscle car division.

HOW AN AUTOMOBILE GOT ITS NAME - Part One

William C. Durant created GM in 1908 and lost the company to bankers in 1910. To get back in the game, Durant had a member of Buick's racing team create a new car. Louis Chevrolet obliged, but left the company shortly after the car was launched in 1912.

Oddly enough: The first V8-powered Chevrolet was produced in 1917, not 1955 as is commonly thought.

Walter Percy Chrysler rose through the ranks of GM until 1919, when he quit his job as Buick's president. Walking out with \$10 million, he landed at Willys-Overland before taking over Maxwell Motors. There, in 1924, he launched the Chrysler.

Oddly enough: Willys built the Jeep during World War II. Jeep is now owned by Chrysler.

Brothers **John and Horace Dodge** had made a fortune producing engines and transmissions for Oldsmobile and Ford. As Henry Ford moved production in-house, they decided to build their own car, which debuted in 1914.

Oddly enough: In 1920, both brothers died.

Edsel Ford: Henry Ford's only son, Edsel, imbued Fords of the '20s and '30s with a sense of style that his father, Henry, lacked. Edsel died of cancer in 1943. His son, Henry Ford II, named a line of cars in his memory in 1958.

Oddly enough: A car derided for its ungainly looks was named for a man with an impeccable taste in design.

Henry Ford gave the world its first affordable car, the Model T. Prior to that, automobiles were playthings for the wealthy. The T changed that.

Fifteen million were built from 1908 to 1927. Prices dropped to \$290 in 1924 from \$850 in 1909.

Oddly enough: Ford Motor Co. was Henry's third company. The second was renamed Cadillac after Ford left.

Ransom Eli Olds' future was assured when a fire ripped through the Olds Motor Works in 1901. The only car rescued - the 7-horsepower Curved Dash Oldsmobile - was a huge hit and became the first mass-produced car in America.

Oddly enough: Olds left Oldsmobile in 1904 to start Reo, builder of the Reo Speedwagon truck. The rock band came later.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2011 BUSINESS MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Club President, Jack Fusari at 7pm.

Minutes from our September 12, 2011 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was given by Bill Truckell. We have 37 paid members and 18 associate members.

Newsletter: Barbara Senior was not present. No one guessed what the part was in our newsletter, submitted by Jack Fusari.

Webmaster: Brian Massey said the website is current, and he can use any articles or pictures.

Old Business: Sam Fisher, Bill Truckell and Dave Valla have completed the update of our By-Laws. They will be published in our next newsletter. We will vote on the changes at our November meeting. Discussion was held on parts of the By-Laws.

Discussion was held on the Toys for Tots Show on November 5, 2011. A job assignment sheet was passed around. Dave Valla volunteered to be in charge of the 50/50 raffle. Janet Massey said if you cannot bring a toy, donate money instead, and they will use the money to purchase toys. She said they usually can get better deals if they buy the toys. Judy Garrett has sixteen awards at a cost of \$243.

New Business:

Nominations for 2012 Club Officers:

Treasurer.....Bill Truckell

Secretary.....Janet Massey

Vice President.....Darroll Walter

President.....Keith Watts

Activities chairman...Ron Berglund

John Berglund was appointed Newsletter Editor.

Past activities:

Chowchilla Show - We had four Pontiac's entered in the show and all won awards.

Cam Twister on the Roof - Three Pontiac's were entered and all won.

Pavilion Car Show - The final night we had 18 cars. Dave Valla was in the running for the Gold Hub Cap, which was won by a '57 Cadillac Kitahara All Car Show happened.

Summer Games at Victor Weitzel's home were lots of fun, as always.

Ladies Luncheon was at BJ's at Fashion Fair. We had seven ladies attending.

Coalinga Car Show happened.

National Guard Car Show - Good POCC attendance

Gold Cup Show Madera Glass & Body - Sam & Elaine Fisher reported that they had a really good time, and also won first place. There were about fifty cars attending.

Future Activities:

****Trip to Cayucos** - If you are going Friday A.M. meet at 8:30 at Shields/41. Our picnic will be in the park next to the Sea Shanty. Keith and Jack volunteered to bring Easyups. Weather should be 60-70's. Sunday you are on your own. There will an antique Fair going on in Cayucos that week end. Be sure and bring chairs and beverages. Around 25 are going.

Update: Cancelled due to illness of Bill's Dad.

****Ladies Luncheon** will be October 26th

****November 5th** - Toys for Tots Show. Be there at 6am for set up.

****December 10th** - POCC's Christmas

Party/Dinner. Brian Massey reported on the place, food and cost. He will follow up with emails. We voted on having mashed potatoes, berry cobbler and pumpkin pie plus all of the rest of the trimmings. Usually we have around 45 people in attendance. Judy Garrett made a motion that the club pays \$10 towards members' tickets and the members pay the balance. Ron Berglund seconded; all were in favor. Cheryl Richards volunteered to be in charge of the gift exchange. The gifts should be \$20 per person.

****Sunday, December 11th** is the 50's Place Pot Luck. We needed six more tickets, Keith Watts called and reserved the extra six tickets.

****Discussion** was held on the Veterans parade, Christmas Tree Lane and Candy Cane Lane.

Winner of the attendance drawing for \$10 was Mark & Carole Klein. They were not present.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15. Our next meeting will be November 14th at Yosemite Falls.

Respectfully,

PaulaYost

Pontiacs of Central California Officers, 2011

<i>President</i>	Jack Fusari	559-645-1390	jackfusari@sbcglobal.net
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General Membership meeting is held on 2nd Monday of the month
Yosemite Falls Café, Ashlan & 99 at 7PM. Interested visitors are welcome.

FOR SALE

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 Stripping, Seat Covers, Headliners, Sun visors, Seat belts and Carpets for most makes and models. Call Dennis Baker, 559-322-8441.

Wanted: Dash pad with black vinyl for 1971 GTO. Call Curt 559-292-3771.