



# The Straight Arrow



**The Monthly Newsletter of the Pontiacs of Central California  
Pontiac Oakland Club International Chapter #67  
[www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org](http://www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org)**

***See You at the Valentine's Mystery Cruise!***

**Volume 18, Issue 2**

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## President's Message

### HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO ALL

**MY FIRST CARS:** I WASN'T LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE ANY GTOS WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, SO I WILL START WITH MY FIRST CAR AND HOW I ACQUIRED IT. IT WAS A 1946 PLYMOUTH FOUR DOOR SEDAN. I WAS ABOUT 13 OR 14 YEARS OLD. YOU GUYS ARE WONDERING NOW, 13! OR 14! AND HE GETS AN AUTOMOBILE? WELL, I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE THE USE OF THE FAMILY'S SMALL RANCH IN SANTA CRUZ THAT HAD ROOM FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO DRIVE THE CAR ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. I WOULD ALWAYS TAG ALONG WITH ONE OF MY FATHER'S BROTHERS, MY UNCLE DELL. AT THE TIME HE WAS A JUNKIE. NOT WHAT A JUNKIE IS TODAY. BACK THEN A JUNKIE WAS A PERSON THAT WOULD JUNK OLDER AUTOMOBILES FOR SCRAPPING AND RECYCLING THE IRON. MY UNCLE DELL KNEW LOTS OF PEOPLE IN THE SANTA CRUZ AND SCOTTS VALLEY AREA AND ONE DAY WE STOPPED AT A PLACE IN SCOTTS VALLEY THAT WAS A BUSINESS CALLED JOLLEY AND SONS. THEY DID DIRT WORK IN CONSTRUCTION. WELL, FOR SOME REASON I SPOTTED THIS 1946 PLYMOUTH, SITTING OFF BY ITSELF, DUSTY AND DIRTY AND UNWANTED, AND THOUGHT I SHOULD HAVE IT. WELL, UNCLE DELL TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD TALK TO MR. JOLLY, THE PATRIARCH OF THE BUSINESS, TO SEE IF HE WANTED TO GET RID OF THE CAR.

NOW! I DON'T KNOW IF MY UNCLE DELL HAD PAID FOR THE CAR OR IF IT WAS GIVEN TO HIM BUT A FEW DAYS LATER MY UNCLE DELL TOOK ME DOWN TO OUR PART OF THE APPLE ORCHARD ACROSS THE HIGHWAY ON THE RANCH, AND THERE SAT THAT 1946 PLY IN ALL ITS GLORY. MY UNCLE HAD BROUGHT IT HOME AND PULLED ALL THE SPARK PLUG WIRES OFF AND TOLD ME IF YOU CAN GET IT RUNNING "IT'S YOURS." AS YOU CAN GUESS, THAT WAS MY FIRST LESSON IN

AUTOMOBILE REPAIR. I GOT IT RUNNING AND WAS DRIVING IT ALL OVER THE PROPERTY AND SOMETIMES INTO AN APPLE TREE THAT HAD GOTTEN IN MY WAY. FROM THE ORCHARD DOWN TO THE CREEK WAS ABOUT A MILE OF TWISTY DIRT ROAD THAT WE HAD ON THE RANCH FOR ACCESS TO OUR WATER SUPPLY. I THINK THAT CAR WAS THE FIRST THING THAT INJURED MY BACK ALSO BECAUSE OF HAVING TO PUSH IT A LOT OF TIMES TO GET IT STARTED BECAUSE OF A DEAD BATTERY.

I LEARNED LATER TO PARK ON A HILL SO THAT I COULD JUST GET IN AND COAST DOWN THE HILL AND GET IT STARTED WITHOUT HAVING TO PUSH, . WHICH WAS A BAD LESSON LEARNED, THAT I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT AT ANOTHER TIME.

ONE DAY, DOING WHAT LITTLE BOYS DO, I FIGURED I THINK I SHOULD TAKE THE PLY FOR A RIDE DOWN HWY 17. WELL, ALL THE DRIVING I DID ON THE RANCH WAS ALWAYS IN FIRST GEAR BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ENOUGH ROOM TO OPEN IT UP. SO WHEN I HIT THE HWY I WENT TO SCOTTS VALLEY AND BACK IN FIRST GEAR FORGETTING TO SHIFT INTO SECOND AND THIRD. AFTER GETTING BACK, I DID THINK TO MYSELF, I FORGOT TO SHIFT, BUT NEVER TRIED THAT STUNT AGAIN.

THE NEXT CAR I GOT AROUND THE SAME TIME OR MAYBE BECAUSE THE PLY WOULDN'T RUN ANYMORE WAS A 1949 HUDSON HORNET, "WHAT I CALLED AN INVERTED BATHTUB" I DON'T KNOW WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO IT. I WOULD GUESS MY UNCLE DELL FINALLY SCRAPPED BOTH OF THEM TO KEEP ME OUT OF TROUBLE.

AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, SUE AND I HAVE HAD OUR 1972 GTO SINCE 1981. WE PURCHASED IT FOR \$1300.00 FROM THE LOU HERWALT OLDS AND PONTIAC DEALER IN FRESNO. IT WAS 10 YEARS OLD AND HAD 175,000 MILES ON IT, ANYHOW I STARTED LEARNING ABOUT THE GTO AND PURCHASED AN INFORMATION BOOK FROM WHICH I'M

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GOING TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOU QUOTES FROM THIS BOOK. I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING FOR PEOPLE THAT HAVE A SPECIFIC YEAR GTO TO HEAR ABOUT OTHER YEARS. USUALLY ONE ONLY KNOWS INFORMATION ON THE YEAR OF THEIR OWN CAR, I WILL BE TELLING YOU A LITTLE ABOUT EACH YEAR IN EVERY MONTHLY NEWS LETTER FROM 1964 TO 1974 AND MAINLY BECAUSE IT WILL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO WRITE ABOUT EVERY MONTH HE! HE! JUST REMEMBER THESE ARE ALL QUOTES AND INFORMATION THAT IS IN THIS BOOK AND ON THE INTERNET. AND ALSO I WILL BE WRITING ABOUT THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO ME WHILE I WAS GROWING UP.

**1964 THE FIRST GENERATION:** THE FIRST PONTIAC GTO WAS AN OPTION PACKAGE FOR THE LE MANS (NOT THE TEMPEST). IT INCLUDED THE 389 IN V8 RATED AT 325 HP@ 4800 RPM, TOTAL PRODUCTION WAS 75,352 ALL BODY STYLES.

MOST CONTEMPORARY ROAD TESTS USED THE MORE POWERFUL TRI-POWER ENGINE AND FOUR SPEED. CAR LIFE CLOCKED A GTO SO EQUIPPED AT 0-60 MPH IN 6.6 SECONDS, THOUGH THE STANDING QUARTER MILE IN 14.8 SECONDS WITH A TRAP SPEED OF 99 MPH LIKE MOST TESTERS, THEY CRITICIZED THE SLOW STEERING, PARTICULARLY WITHOUT POWER STEERING, AND THE INADEQUATE DRUM BRAKES, WHICH WERE IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF THE NORMAL TEMPEST. CAR AND DRIVER INCITED STORMS OF CONTROVERSY WHEN IT PRINTED THAT A GTO THAT HAD SUPPOSEDLY BEEN TUNED WITH THE "BOBCAT" KIT OFFERED BY A MICHIGAN PONTIAC DEALER, WAS CLOCKED AT A QUARTER-MILE ET OF 12.8 SECONDS AND A TRAP SPEED OF 112 MPH ON RACING SLICKS. LATER REPORTS

STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT C & D GTOS WERE NOT EQUIPPED WITH THE 389, BUT WITH THE 421 SUPER DUTY ENGINES THAT WERE OPTIONAL IN FULL-SIZED PONTIACS. SINCE THE TWO ENGINES WERE DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH EXTERNALLY, THE SUBTERFUGE WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS. IT COULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE GTO TO REACH 165 MPH WITHOUT SPEED LIMITERS, BUT THAT HASN'T BEEN CONFIRMED.

THE NAME "BOBCAT" CAME FROM THAT SAME PONTIAC DEALER IN MICHIGAN THAT SOLD THAT TUNE UP KIT FOR THE 389 ENGINES. IT CAME FROM THE IMPROVISED BADGES CREATED FOR THE MODIFIED CARS, COMBINING LETTERS FROM THE "BONNEVILLE" AND "CATALINA" NAMEPLATES. MANY OF THE PONTIACS MADE AVAILABLE FOR MAGAZINE TESTING WERE EQUIPPED WITH THE BOBCAT KIT.

LITTLE TRICKS I HAVE LEARNED FROM OLDER MECHANICS:

DID YOU KNOW IF YOU SPUN A BEARING IN A MODEL T, FOR A QUICK FIX TO GET YOU HOME, IN THE FOUR FOOT LONG OIL PAN THAT WOULD REQUIRE YOU TO PULL THE ENGINE TO REMOVE, THERE IS A SMALL PAN INCORPORATED TO ALLOW ACCESS TO THE ROD BEARINGS. OLD-TIMERS WOULD INSTALL BACON RIND IN PLACE OF THE WORN OUT BABBITT AND LIMP THEIR CAR HOME.

YOUR 2011 PRESIDENT  
JACK OF ALL TRADES... FUSARI



**MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011 BUSINESS MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by President, Jack Fusari.

**Guests** present were: Derek Bergthold, David Cuadros and Dean Davison.

November 2010 meeting minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Truckell reports that the club has currently 44 members and 16 associates as of January 1, 2011.

**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Barbara asked us to E-mail pictures to her after any event.

**Web-master's Report:** Brian Massey reports everything is up and running. The flyers for our car show are online. We received 251,321 hits last year from US, Great Britain, Germany, Netherlands, Ukraine, Australia, Brazil and even 13 from China.

**Old Business:**

Brian Massey and Victor Weitzel reported that they are close to finishing the High Resolution Drawing of our Logo.

Carl Smith gave an update on the April Pontiac show in Madera. The park is reserved, flyers are completed. If you check the flyers on the internet make sure it says "new 2-current flyer." He needs people to sign up to help.

**New Business:** Our chapter dues are due, \$24.00 for members and \$5.00 for associates. Jack Fusari discussed Hagerty Insurance. They have a banner that they would like to display. Don Bonander will sponsor the POCC Central Valley Classic Show in April 2011.

Congratulations are in order for Dennis Baker and Ginger who were married in December

**Past Activities:** Paula Yost reported that we had a good turnout for the Christmas Party at the Silver Dollar Hofbrau.

Don Senior reported the Christmas Tree Lane Cruise had a great turnout for the cruise and dinner. Joel Garrett suggested next year we use a flat bed trailer. It was tabled for future. A thank you was received from the Boot Scootin' BBQ from Wish Upon a Star. They received over \$20,000 altogether.

A thank you and plaque was given to Dave Valla in recognition of his dedication and service as 2010 club president.

Bill Truckell presented membership pins.

**Five Year Pins:**

Paul Castro  
Curt Gunderson  
Dave & Jane Wolin  
George Truckell  
Don & Wendy Bonander  
Judy Kaspar  
Matt & Susan Mott

**Ten Year Pins:**

Paula & Tom Yost

**Fifteen Year Pins:**

Gayle & Helen Huls

Dennis Baker

POCC was chartered seventeen years ago.

**Activities report** was given by Carl Smith:

He is setting up a January bowling night in and will let us know when he can reserve lanes.

Ladies luncheon will be January 26 at 11am at the Olive Garden. RSVP to Judy Garrett.

Turlock Swap Meet is Jan. 29/30.

February 12th, Brian Massey is doing the Valentine's mystery cruise.

Galvins car show is March 25/26.

Discussion was held on going to Casa de Fruita again and meeting the Golden Gate Goats.

Discussion was held about meeting at a different place called Federal Park. Discussion will be held at a later date.

Chubby's on Blackstone, starts on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chubby's on Gettysburg starts April 2<sup>nd</sup>. They would like to have a \$1000 drawing on opening night, and we were asked to donate \$100.

Joel Garrett made motion that we donate \$100. It also entitles us to have front row for our cars. The motion was second by Don Senior. The motion carried.

Carl Smith suggested a tour to Bravo Farms Cheese Factory. He will get more information. We are thinking about inviting the Bakersfield Club to meet us there.

The Selma's swap meet will be in March.

Keith Watts discussed a road trip to Parkfield, earthquake capital of the world in April or May.

Brian and Janet Massey are having a Daytona Party at their house on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ron Berglund asked if the club could furnish cars for the Elks lodge on February 12th for a 50s party and also Friday, May 20th at 6:00 for Fresno Elks Lodge. There will be 400-500 people present.

Save the date: October 14-16 for our Cayucos trip.

We all sang Happy Birthday to Ellie Watts

Attendance Drawing was won by Dennis Simonson, he is \$40.00 richer.

Meeting was adjourned, and our next meeting will be February 14, 2011 at Yosemite Falls.

Respectfully,

Paula Yost, Secretary

## **Upcoming events**

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Mystery cruise

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> - Meeting, 7pm

Yosemite Falls Café

March 14<sup>th</sup> - Meeting, 7pm

Yosemite Falls Café

March 25-26 - Galvins car chow

April 2<sup>th</sup> - Club night @ Chubby's,

April 11<sup>th</sup> - Meeting, 7pm

Yosemite Falls Café

May 6-7 - Clovis Motorsports Jamboree

July 4-8 - GTOAA National Meet

Portland, Oregon

October 14-16 - Cayucos trip.

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***Pontiacs of Central California Officers, 2011***

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General Membership meeting is held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month  
Yosemite Falls Café, Ashlan & 99 at 7PM. Interested visitors are welcome.

**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, etc for my Lemans Sport convertible. Pictures on request via email. Contact Dan @ 559-908-1450.

**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.

**Four 1970's Beauty Rings.** \$10, Dennis Simonson, 559-906-8900.