



# Pontiacs of the Valley

September 2024 | Newsletter of the Valley of the Sun Pontiacs Club  
Chapter #107, Pontiac Oakland Club International

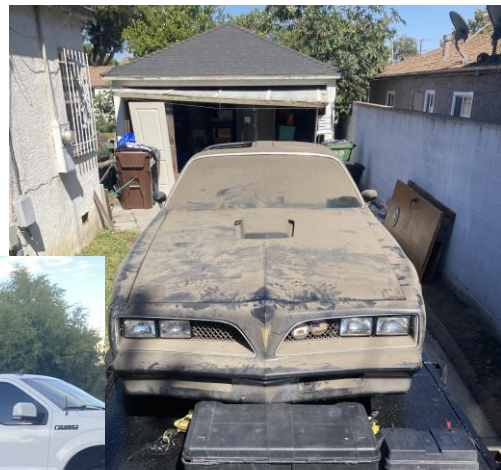
**Club meeting tomorrow night at Rudy's!**

## The "barn find" Trans Am

*Club member Julian Grant tells about the family Black Bird he found collecting dust in California*

Conversations with family can involve lots of topics – kids, jobs, politics. But what about a Trans Am collecting dust in the garage?

Valley of the Sun Pontiacs Club member **Julian Grant** drives a silver '67 Firebird he has owned since 1996 and is in the process of restoring a '67



^ The car today. > As it looked when Julian pulled it out of its 22-year hibernation.

GTO. He talked about the cars often during his visits with family in Compton, California. On



one visit, his cousin Anecia casually said, “You know, I have a Firebird also!” “I said ‘No, you don’t,’” Julian told her, “because I had never seen or heard about it,” he said in an interview. “She said it was in her garage and I said, ‘OK, I’ll come check it out next time I visit.’ ”

On the next visit, he went to her place, and found the garage door broken. But through a side door, in the dark, he could see the outline of a car. “There were boxes everywhere but sure enough, there was a car in the garage. I couldn’t really tell much because it was dark.” But what did appear to be a car was not only a Firebird, but a Trans-Am. “I saw the front fender vents of a Trans Am,” Julian said. “Then I saw it was a T-top car,” Julian said. “It just got cooler and cooler as I got to see more of it.”

He finally got the garage door open and could see the whole car.

Anecia’s step-dad had bought the car brand new in 1978 at Arman Pontiac in Compton. and let her drive the car through high school. After that she gave it back to him and he parked it – for 22 years. “It was last registered in 1993,” Julian said.

Anecia’s step-dad passed away recently and her mom had title of the car and was ready now to sell it. Julian had first dibs.

A look under the hood showed everything on the 403 Oldsmobile motor was still intact. “Someone had broken into the garage and spraypainted the fender and stole the radio, but the rest was all there,” Julian said.

With his other Pontiac projects, Julian said he couldn’t really swing a third car, “but I didn’t want to let this one get away.” So, he enlisted the help of former co-worker Bill Goy. “He has just sold his Catalina, and so we went in as partners on the car.”

After trailering it back to Phoenix, the guys washed the Trans Am a few times, get rid of the graffiti and buffed it out to a shine. “We changed all the fluids, put new plugs and wires on it, put in a new gas tank and new battery, and it started right up. It idled like a sewing machine.”

**Bill Goy sold this ’62 Catalina at Mecum in 2022. Two weeks later, he got the call from Julian Grant about going in on the ‘barn find’ Trans Am.**



The car had about 112,000 miles, and after a few drives in the car – and a hard push at the Good Guys autocross, it developed a rod knock. “We decided to pull the motor and put the motor I had in my Firebird into the Trans-Am,” Julian said. The partners then rebuilt the transmission and rear end, put new disc brakes up front, along with a new suspension and new body bushings.

The car had power windows, door locks, and A/C. It is a WS-6, Julian said documents show, “but not sure it is an S/E.”

Bill Goy said the car is in line for new Vintage Air and upgrades to the interior are underway, including new carpeting, sound deadening material, and ProCar front seats. The car may need some paint and body work down the road. “The big thing now is to drive and enjoy the car,” Bill said.



# Calling all Pontiac enthusiasts!



Join our family-oriented Pontiac club here in the Valley. We proudly showcase cars from all years and models. Our club includes some of the nation's top Pontiac restoration experts, offering a wealth of technical knowledge. Come make new friends and talk all things Pontiac!

**ANNUAL DUES ONLY \$15!**

## PONTIAC NIGHT *at the* PAVILIONS

2ND SATURDAY FROM SEPTEMBER THRU MAY  
9120 TALKING STICK WAY/SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85250  
3PM TO 8PM

## PONTIAC NIGHT *at* MIXTECA

4TH SATURDAY FROM SEPTEMBER THRU MAY  
6731 W BELL RD. GLENDALE, AZ 85308  
3PM TO 8PM



MORE INFO AT: [VALLEYSUNPONTIACS.COM](http://VALLEYSUNPONTIACS.COM)

**Pontiac**

**Night**

**At**

**Pav**



The Valley of the Sun Pontiacs Club filled our row at Pavilions this past week during Pontiac night. We had a great turnout, and look forward to our new Pontiac night, Westside style, at Mixteca on Sept. 28 (see the flyer above for details).



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## **President's Message**



Welcome back from our summer break from the Valley of the Sun Pontiac Club! As you have seen on social media ... many members decided not to take a break and attended numerous activities throughout the summer months. CONGRATS!!

Please consider attending our club meeting tomorrow night. Your Board of Directors and Club Officers met during the summer and all consented to taking charge of various activities and tasks for the Club. Thank you to a dedicated group of people. If anyone else wants to join in to help existing events or if you want to start a new one, let

us know. We have a lot of talent in our group and we need explore those opportunities. In addition to my report, I want to let you know some things that we will discuss at the Sept 18 meeting. Mary Sundberg will have club logo window decals available for those that want them. Make sure you have your cars registered with Mike Fleury. We will not be sending or mailing out decals due to the expense involved. They will be available at our meetings.

Same goes for nametags. Lorry Getting has ordered nametags for those wanting them and they will also be available at our meetings and some events as well. Note, Lorry is also planning a cruise to the Pedal Car Museum followed by a group lunch. More info at the meeting.

See you there.

*Paul*

### Join us **WEDNESDAY** for our monthly meeting

We'll talk about upcoming events for the rest of the year, including our Cops and Rodders/San Diego trip, Power Tour West, and other special events. Be there at 5:30 for dinner, 7:00 pm for the meeting! The address is Rudy's Country Store and BBQ, 15257 N. Northsight Blvd., Scottsdale.

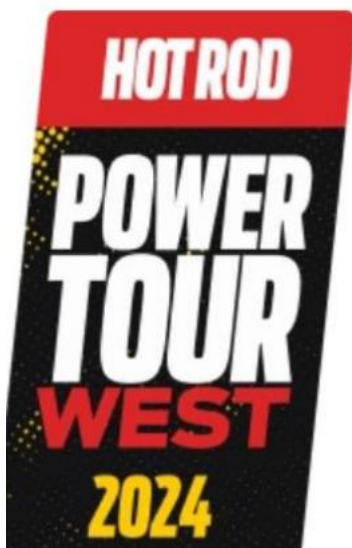


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## Hot Rod Power Tour West is here October 7-11!

(hear more about this tour, along with its stop in Phoenix, at our meeting Wednesday).

The five-city, five-day event is back and bigger than ever and will include thousands of cars and trucks of all years, makes and models that will be on display for tens of thousands of automotive enthusiasts across California and Arizona. The HOT ROD magazine's Power Tour West installment made its debut in 2023 and is expanding in 2024 due to popular demand and will feature over 1,000 miles of driving with adrenaline-fueled events including drag racing, autocross and live entertainment. Additional details on the 2024 HOT ROD Power Tour West are available at [hotrodpowertourwest.us](https://hotrodpowertourwest.us).



#### **Schedule:**

**KICKOFF / Day 1:** Monday, Oct. 7 – In-N-Out Burger Pomona Dragstrip, Pomona, Calif. (feat. drag racing)

**Day 2:** Tuesday, Oct. 8 – Pechanga Arena, San Diego

**Day 3:** Wednesday, Oct. 9 – Riverside County Fairgrounds, Indio, Calif.

**Day 4:** Thursday, Oct. 10 – Windsor Beach, Lake Havasu

**Day 5:** Friday, Oct. 11 – Radford Racing School, Chandler

All vehicles and spectators will need to pre-register before arriving at the first venue they attend. Spectators can come out

and witness the HOT ROD Power Tour West spectacle with a paid gate admission cost and will be able to register for a ticket at [hotrodpowertourwest.us](http://hotrodpowertourwest.us) in July.



**Congratulations to our new  
Valley of the Sun Pontiac Club  
Officers and Board of Directors for 2024-25.**

**President:** Paul Albinger  
**Vice-President:** Mark Neumann  
**Secretary:** Georgann Rovenstine  
**Treasurer:** Mike Fleury

**Board of Directors:** Bruce Almond, Tim Blattner, Carl Bylander, Lorry Getting, Frank Gostyla, Valerie Johnson, Tom Knecht, Tom Locke, Mary Sundberg

**Webmaster:** Scott Svenheim