



Pontiacs of the Valley



January 2025 | Newsletter of the Valley of the Sun Pontiacs Club
Chapter #107, Pontiac Oakland Club International

Club meeting this Wednesday night at Rudy's!

Get your motor(s) runnin'

Several club members getting closer to turning the key on rebuilds

What do Valley of the Sun Pontiacs club members Rex McWhorter, Mike Grimm, Mike Cichonsky, Paul Baumgartner, and Gary Rude have in common? They all have Pontiac engines undergoing rebuilds – with some really close to turning the key.



Guys like McWhorter, Cichonsky and Grimm – who has been working on the rebuild of his Pontiac 400 for the last two years (below, right) for his '74 Ventura – are getting ready to roll.

“I purchased the car in 2020 and everything leaked and I could not get the 350 to run smoothly,” Grimm said. “I believe the timing chain and the lifters were worn out. That and a very leaky transmission led to the rebuild. Some friends helped me pull the



350 in December 2022 and installed the 400 and rebuilt transmission in November 2023. I am working through final issues before starting the engine for the first time. I get about 4 to 8 hours a week to work on my car, so the progress has been slower than I wanted.”

McWhorter did his rebuild after needing to replace the starter on the 400 in his '65 Lemans (top). “I did get my motor installed and running but there was a noise coming from the lower end so had to pull the motor and inspect the lower end again. I found a bolt on the baffle between the oil pan and the crank was too long and the baffle was vibrating.



“Since I had it back apart I am re-checking the torque on the end caps and crank. It will be going back together in the next week or so. I have also decided to take my tranny out to add the lock up circuit on my 200-4R.”

Others like Rude and Baumgartner are waiting patiently. “I am so excited to have my 455 engine rebuilt. I feel like a little kid at Christmas!” Baumgartner said on the club's Facebook page. – by Mark Neumann

Don't forget to RSVP to our annual club party on Feb. 15
(see flyer)

President's Message



Happy New Year to all!

Now that we can put the holidays behind us, our club *also* had a great holiday season. Besides Pontiac Nights at the Pavilions and Mixteca, 17 members of our club cruised to the Toyz for Totz event in Wickenburg, bringing with them a generous cash donation from our club for Cops Who Care. Great weather, good roads, and some awesome Pontiacs and their owners made for a great day.

On January 1, 38 people participated in the Saguaro Lake New Year's Day Cruise. The flu bug hit 4 of our members who were unable to attend with their cars, and some spouses /significant others who were not able attend although the other half did. Another impressive weather day and great roads and views made for a great day. A great lunch was had along with a custard stand stop afterwards. Door prizes were won by Tom Knecht, Dawn Hudson and Sam Hudson. Most importantly, new members attended, new friends were made and old friendships renewed with lots of laughs and smiles. Our family (club) keeps on growing. Some people also elected to watch the ASU Game vs. Texas. We totally understand that and on New Years Day, there are so many other events competing for our time.

With that, I really want to urge all of our members to attend cruises and events that we have. Some members' cars aren't up and running all the time. Remember that "we go for the cars but come for the people." If your car is down and you have to bring the daily driver, that's ok. Come on out!!!

Getting ready for the MAG auction

Upcoming for our club later this month is our annual participation as drivers in the **MAG auction**, taking place Jan. 20-27 at Cub's Stadium at Sloan Park this year (a new location).

On Feb. 1, we have a special event that VSP Board member Valarie Johnson is working on for us. It's a full day of car shows, arts and crafts, BBQ cookoffs, music and other activities (see flyer elsewhere in this newsletter). Meanwhile, Club VP Mark Neumann, Mary Sundberg, Dodi Messer, and Frank and Toni Gostyla – our hosts this year – are planning our **annual club party** for Feb 15th. See the flyer elsewhere in this issue. We have 100 RSVPs already, but it is important to make sure that you participate if you sign up to come to cover our food costs.

Finally, March 30 is our **27th annual Buick-Olds-Pontiac-Cadillac and GMC Car Show** at the East Valley Institute of Technology in Mesa. The BOPC-GMC event is chaired by Club Board member Carl Bylander, who with his committee is working hard in putting together this quality show. Registration forms are in this newsletter – sign up now! Judging committee co-chairs Mark Neumann and Mike Jewell are still looking for some judges for the show. Sign up at Wednesday's meeting.

In April we will be having our **Annual Cruise and Breakfast at Phil's Filling Station**. More to come on that. Finally, we will be having a eulogy by Mike Jewell at our club meeting this week for club member Stan Ford, who died before Christmas. Stan was a loyal and active member of our club. I look forward to seeing everyone very soon at our upcoming events.

Paul

Paul Albinger Jr

Join us this WEDNESDAY for our monthly club meeting

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.



You're invited!

Valley of the Sun Pontiacs Club Party '25

AWESOME CARS – GREAT FOOD!

COME TO OUR ANNUAL CLUB PARTY ON SATURDAY, FEB. 15, AT FRANK AND TONI GOSTYLA'S PLACE. WE HAD OVER 100 PEOPLE ATTEND OUR 2024 PARTY!

WHEN: SATURDAY, FEB. 15

TIME: 11 AM – 3:00 PM



WHERE: THE HOME OF FRANK AND TONI GOSTYLA
11348 E. NORTH LANE, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85259

RSVP TO MARK NEUMANN (PH: 602.653.5074; MARKNEUMANN16@GMAIL.COM) BY FEB. 1
BEFORE WE ORDER FOOD

**ARE YOU
READY TO
DRIVE???**



MAG Auctions
Collector Car Auction
JAN 24-26 | 2025
NEW LOCATION!
Cubs Stadium at Sloan Park
2330 W Rio Salado Pkwy, Mesa, AZ 85201
NSIGN NOW!
1-888-330-0749
www.motorsportauctiongroup.com

**Come to our Valley of the Sun Pontiacs club meeting
THIS WEDNESDAY or contact club president Paul
Albinger to get details on your driver assignments.**

2025 Pontiac Cars and Parts Buyer's Guide now available!

- new 6th edition!
- Over a dozen pages of Pontiac parts and cars for sale from across Arizona.
- Listings include descriptions, photos, pricing, and contact information.

Find it at www.valleysunpontiacs.com

1970-1981 Firebird Parts for Sale

- 1979 Firebird rear end, 2PS code, 2.41 posi, drum brakes, \$150
- 1980 Firebird rear end, 5PQ code, 3.23 posi, disc brakes, \$300
- Restored front suspension pieces from 1979 Firebird (spindles, upper/lower control arms), \$50
- OEM 15" x 8" Snowflake wheels (4), \$200
- Multiple sets of window trim, décor molding, etc., all for \$100
- NOS glass channel weatherstrip, without bead (for cars with Décor molding), \$150
- Console, auto, really nice, \$200
- Console, 4 speed, really nice, \$500
- 1970-1977 dash pad, no cracks or visible damage, \$400
- 1978-81 dash pad, core for restoration, \$50
- Steering column, 1979, tilt, nice, \$300



Check out "TECH TIME" by Tom Locke

Tech Time is a series of club meeting presentations by Board member Tom Locke on topics like upgrading your headlights, understanding oil viscosity, security systems and other topics. See the presentations at <http://www.valleysunpontiacs.com/news.php>

Tech Time #1 - Upgrading the lights on your Pontiac

Tech Time #2 - Security Systems - Putting a lock on your ride

Tech Time #3 - Oil for your Pontiac

If you have ideas for future topics for Tech Time, contact Tom at gtolockes1@msn.com



Join us for this
Valley of the
Sun Pontiacs
club event!
Register today!

We invite you to join your fellow club members doing one of your favorite things, driving and showing off your car!!! This event is guaranteed to be a day filled with classic cars, live music all day long, delicious BBQ, and hands-on fun

You must preregister your car by January 24th to get the \$30 deal and the goodies listed below or onsite registration is available for \$40.

- Includes Coffee and snacks the morning of the event and complimentary bottled water
- Includes 5 free raffle tickets. Raffle enters to win over \$2,000 in prizes
- Includes Commemorative Dash Plaque
- Includes Discount Voucher for a commemorative \$15 festival T-shirt. (Voucher is good for \$5 off regular t-shirt price)
- Artist-made trophies and awards will be given in 20+ categories
- All cars will be parked outdoors in the designated parking lots at the Glendale Civic Center.

All cars **MUST** arrive on-site no later than 9:15 a.m. on the day of the show. You will **NOT** be permitted to move your vehicle out of the festival area until after 3 p.m. The event officially ends at 5 pm.

There will be over 20 judged categories with Artist-made trophies and awards to be given. Online registration is available at

https://saaca.formstack.com/forms/2025_downtown_glendale_bbq_rhythms_and_rides

We will all meet up that morning at Cerreta Candy Company, 5345 W Glendale Avenue. Candy store opens at 8:00 a.m. and we will depart to the show by 8:45 a.m.

Please RSVP to Valerie Johnson as soon as you register or by noon on January 31st. Call or text her at 208-604-4303.



evit
COLLEGE AND CAREER



OLD SMOBILE ~ PONTIAC ~ CADILLAC ~
BUICK ~ GMC

27 TH BOPC SHOW

SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH, 2025

10:00 AM - 3:00PM

**EAST VALLEY INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY**

1601 W. MAIN ST, MESA, AZ

SOME PROCEEDS FROM THIS SHOW WILL SUPPORT THE
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AT EVIT
SEE BACK FOR REGISTRATION OR VALLEYSUNPONTIACS.COM



27TH ANNUAL B.O.P.C. & GMC SHOW

HOSTED BY VALLEY OF THE SUN PONTIACS

1ST & 2ND PLACE TROPHIES IN 51 CLASSES, PLUS BEST OF SHOW & BEST OF EACH OF THE 5 MAKES.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH, 2025 10:00 am - 3:00 pm AT EVIT, 1601 W MAIN ST, MESA, AZ

Complete This Registration (Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ST/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

REGISTRATION FEE:

Before - Mar,22 2025: \$25 for 1st car, \$10 for each additional
Day of Show - Mar,30 2025: \$30 for 1st car, \$15 for each additional

CAR	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	CLASS CODE	AMOUNT
1					\$
2					\$
3					\$

T-SHIRTS:

SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
SMALL	\$15	X	\$
MEDIUM	\$15	X	\$
LARGE	\$15	X	\$
X-LARGE	\$15	X	\$
2X-LARGE	\$16	X	\$
3X-LARGE	\$16	X	\$

RAFFLE TICKETS:

BLOCKS	PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
7 TICKETS FOR:	\$5	X	\$
20 TICKETS FOR:	\$10	X	\$

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE, T-SHIRTS & RAFFLE TICKETS: \$

* Day of show- Cash or check only

Mail this form and a check payable to: Valley of the Sun Pontiacs, 5102
E Paradise Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

I do not hold Valley of the Sun Pontiacs (VOTSP), Pontiac Oakland Club International (POCI) or East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) liable for any damages while attending this event.

Signature: _____

(A) Original Paint, Drivetrain, Wheels and Interior

CLASS CODE	PONTIAC	YEARS
P-01	CUSTOM PONTIAC'S	ALL YEARS
P-02	UNRESTORED (A)	1900 - 1974
P-03	SOLSTICE	ALL YEARS
P-04	FIERO	ALL YEARS
P-05	JUDGE	1969 - 1971
P-06	GTO	1964 - 1965
P-07	GTO	1966 - 1967
P-08	GTO	1968 - 1969
P-09	GTO	1970 - 1974
P-10	GTO / G8	2004 - 2010
P-11	FIREBIRD / TA	1967 - 1969
P-12	FIREBIRD / TA	1970 - 1973
P-13	FIREBIRD / TA	1974 - 1976
P-14	FIREBIRD / TA	1977 - 1978
P-15	FIREBIRD / TA	1979 - 1981
P-16	FIREBIRD / TA	1982 - 1992
P-17	FIREBIRD / TA	1993 - 2002
P-18	TEMPEST / LEMANS	1961 - 1974
P-19	PRE 50 PONTIAC'S	1900 - 1949
P-20	50's BIG PONTIAC'S	1950 - 1959
P-21	BIG PONTIAC'S	1960 - 1964
P-22	BIG PONTIAC'S	1965 - 1969
P-23	70's BIG PONTIAC'S	1970 - 1979
P-24	80's UP PONTIAC'S	1980 - 2009

CLASS CODE	BUICK	YEARS
B-01	CUSTOM	ALL YEARS
B-02	UNRESTORED (A)	ALL YEARS
B-03	RIVIERA	ALL YEARS
B-04	GS / GSX	1965 - 1972
B-05	GN / GNX	1982 - 1987
B-06	PRE 50 BUICK'S	1900 - 1949
B-07	50's BUICK'S	1950 - 1959
B-08	60's BUICK'S	1960 - 1969
B-09	70's BUICK'S	1970 - 1979
B-10	80's BUICK'S	1980 - 2024

CLASS CODE	OLDSMOBILE	YEARS
O-01	CUSTOM	ALL YEARS
O-02	UNRESTORED (A)	ALL YEARS
O-03	CUTLASS / F85 / 442	1961 - 1967
O-04	CUTLASS / F85 / 442	1968 - 1972
O-05	HURST OLDSMOBILE'S	1964 - 1972
O-06	PRE 50 OLDSMOBILE'S	1900 - 1949
O-07	50's OLDSMOBILE'S	1950 - 1959
O-08	60's OLDSMOBILE'S	1960 - 1969
O-09	70's OLDSMOBILE'S	1970 - 2004

CLASS CODE	CADILLAC	YEARS
C-01	CUSTOM CADILLAC	ALL YEARS
C-02	UNRESTORED (A)	ALL YEARS
C-03	PRE 50 CADILLAC'S	1900 - 1949
C-04	50's CADILLAC'S	1950 - 1959
C-05	60's CADILLAC'S	1960 - 1969
C-06	70's CADILLAC'S	1970 - 1979
C-07	CADILLAC'S 80's UP	1980 - 2024

CLASS CODE	GMC	YEARS
G-01	GMC	ALL YEARS

Contacts: Carl - 480-507-0331, cabylander@outlook.com OR Mike - 843-860-0791, mwflurey@bellsouth.net OR Stan - 480-662-0767, bbtorque@gmail.com

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



Mecum Auction TV's "Professor" John Kraman passes away at 49

John Kraman, who has led the broadcast team on Motor Trend TV for Mecum auctions for many years and has been a life-long Pontiac fan, passed away. Reports indicate he was 49.

He joined Mecum in 2006 and has been the director of company relations and the company spokesperson at public events.

But his main role was as lead commentator/analyst for the Motor Trend broadcasts at the Mecum auctions across the country. Kraman would tell TV viewers about the hundreds of cars and trucks that rolled down the red carpet during Mecum auctions. Kraman knew something about every car that hit the auction block, whether it was a Ferrari or a Fiero.

In an interview with me for *Smoke Signals* magazine last year, he talked about his 1964 GTO (right) and the classic car market.

"I bought [the car] in July 1976 for \$1,350 in Rockford, Illinois. It was owned by the brother of a school chum who had a stunning 1965 GTO convertible. I am the third owner.

"The original 389 ci/325 hp mill was gone so I built up a 65' 389 ci block from a Catalina, bored out to 400. I added 1967 code 670 big valve heads, a factory RAIV camshaft with 1.50 ratio rocker arms and a 1966 Tri-power setup I paid \$15 for!

"It is painted Cameo Ivory with mostly original dark aqua interior. I have recently purchased a set of repro Hurst wheels and a mint original 4 spoke sport steering wheel as I approach my 50th anniversary of owning this car.

"It's what I'd call a high-quality 'driver,' and I love it!"

When asked about the classic car market, Kraman called it "a very [random] market right now, and Mecum doesn't have much control over what cars are actually consigned. So, our auctions reflect what people [want to sell.]

"But for Pontiacs, my sense is the market is still very strong and solid. The big news in the Pontiac world goes back to last year with the Chuck Cocoma Collection of rare Ram Air IV GTOs. The crown jewel of his fleet — a 1970 GTO Judge convertible in that signature Orbit Orange color — brought just over \$1 million [at Mecum's Kissimmee auction].

"That was a significant car by any standard, but it completely reset the bar for the Pontiac marketplace. It's the first time any Pontiac had sold for that kind of money at a public auction," he said.

— by Mark Neumann





Officers and Board of Directors, 2024-25

President: Paul Albinger Vice-President: Mark Neumann
Secretary: Georjann Stull Treasurer: Mike Fleury

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



Not pictured: Mike Fleury, club treasurer