



Pontiacs of the Valley

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

Check our Facebook page and valleysunpontiacs.com for upcoming summer events

East bound 'n down, POCl on the Bourbon Trail

Pontiacs were roaming the streets in the mid-west and the southeast in early June, and Valley of the Sun Pontiacs and Arizona chapter members of POCl were there as part of the great adventures.



Firebird and Trans Am owners (left) from our club were part of the annual Bandit Run, which started at the headquarters of the main sponsor – Restore a Muscle Car Inc., in Lincoln, Neb. – and ended 3,000 miles away in Branson, Mo. (check out the Facebook posts from those on the trip).

Meanwhile, 13

members of the VSP and AZ chapters of Pontiac-Oakland Club International (right; Mary Sundberg and Dave Bertram not present for photo) made the trek to Louisville, KY for POCl's 53rd annual convention.

The 5-day event had over 300 cars registered; seminars included a virtual tour of the new Pontiac Transportation Museum in Pontiac, Mich. and a review of Fiero history. POCl chapters were recognized during an award banquet (including recognition for newsletter editors Dave Green and Mark Neumann from the two Arizona chapters). See more pictures below.



From tours of Churchill Downs to the Bourbon Trail (and a side trip to the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green) everyone had a great time.

POCI's next convention will take place June 23-27, 2026, in Pontiac, Mich., in honor of the 100th anniversary of Pontiac. More details at www.poci.org. Make plans to be there!



Mike Lamberth takes Gold at POCI

Congrats to VSP Club member Mike Lamberth for winning Gold Jr. (points judged) at the POCI convention in Louisville for his 1977 Pontiac Can Am. Mike scored in the 390-400 points category (400 is the highest you can achieve).



VSP Club member Paul Waer (right) was also inducted into the POCI Original Owners Club with his 1966 Pontiac Ventura. Congrats Paul!



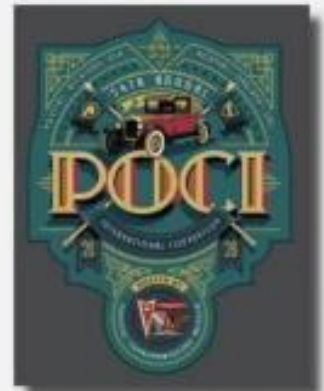
Pontiac-Oakland Club International

KEEPING THE PONTIAC LEGACY ALIVE SINCE 1972

JOIN TODAY!



WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND
OUR 54TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN
JUNE 23-27, 2026





Congratulations to new Valley of the Sun Pontiacs Club Officers and Board Members for 2025-26!

President:	Paul Albinger
Vice-President:	Mark Neumann
Secretary:	Vinnie LaMacchia
Treasurer	Mike Fleury

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Almond Frank Gostyla Valerie Johnson Tom Knecht Dave Koenig
Tom Locke Larry McGown Thom Mohr Mary Sundberg

Next Valley of the Sun Pontiacs club meeting: Wednesday, September 17

Arizona POCI chapters raise \$1,000 for Pontiac museum

Special thanks to Pontiacers in Arizona who pitched in and bought donated manuals and special restoration books as part of a fundraiser for the Pontiac Transportation Museum (site of the 2026 POCI National Convention). Our two Arizona chapters received a well-preserved collection of manuals and books from Roy Moore, who recently sold his Pontiac collection. **Sales of the books and donations by members raised \$1,000 for the museum!**

We presented the checks - \$750 in donations and \$250 for a paver at the museum – to Museum director Tim Dye at the POCI convention (right).

More information on the Pontiac Transportation Museum and other options for donations can be found at <https://www.pontiactransportationmuseum.org>.



President's Message

Hello club members,

Happy summer! Even though we are on our traditional break until September, plenty is going on. The most popular event in our social media network so far is THE BANDIT RUN!!! I have been fortunate enough to go on everyone since 2019. If you can, I would highly encourage you to go on one sometime...seriously!!! The fun and friendships you have and make are priceless.

We know that not everyone can go on the Bandit Run, so Club members are planning more "local" events for our 2025-2026 year.

- Mike and Betty Naegli are putting together a drive through portions of Arizona, Utah, and Nevada.



- Valerie Johnson is interested in putting together a car cruising event to celebrate the 100th birthday of Route 66 in 2026.
- In late September, we will have our annual cruise to San Diego and the Cops & Rodders Show put on by the POCI-San Diego chapter. Tom Knecht is championing that event.

More things to come!

In July, the returning and new board members will have a summer BOD (board of directors) meeting to set the agenda for our 2025-2026 year. Stay tuned and please consider participating in one or more of the super events that are being planned.

Paul

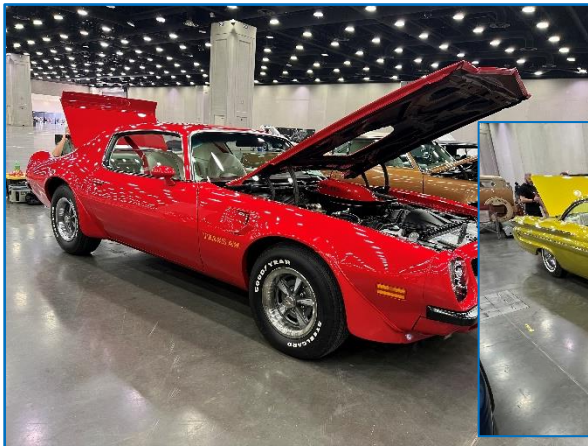
Paul Albinger, Jr.

Board meetings are open to all VSP Club members

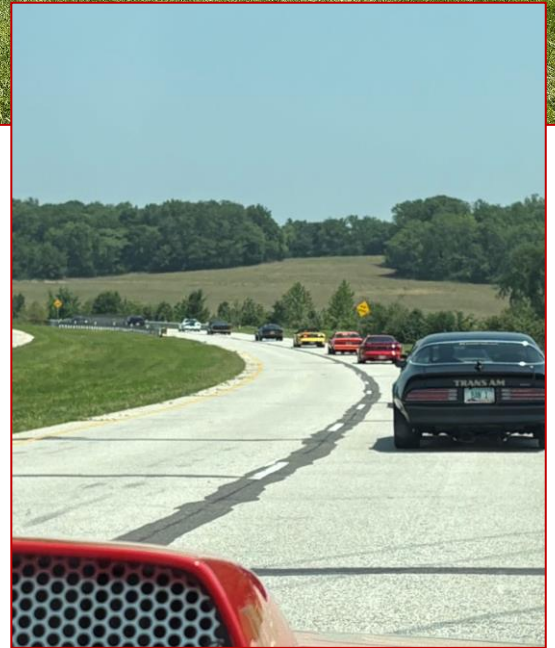
The meeting is being held Monday, July 7 at Rudy's, starting at 6:30 pm. The address is Rudy's Country Store and BBQ, 15257 N. Northsight Blvd., Scottsdale.



More pictures from the POCI Convention ...



and The Bandit Run!





From the diary of A Bandit runner

Eight Valley of the Sun Pontiacs club members drove and 15 were in attendance for this year's Bandit Run: Tim and Kerrie Blattner, Sam Hudson, Paul and Barb Albinger, Jr, (prez), Scott Moore, Ditch and Sandy Cordes, Jeff Miller, Mike and Betty Naegeli, Vinnie and Robbie LaMacchia, Owen Zangle and Tom Knecht.

- Miles. 3,269; \$792 in gas - Tom
- 2 starters - Sam and Tom
- 2 wiper motors - Sam and Tom
- 2 Center caps thanks to I 40 in New Mexico - Mike and Tom
- 1 alternator - Mike
- 1 set of car ramps at Harbor Freight
- 1 A/C compressor - Mike
- 2 serpentine belts - Mike and Jeff
- 1 tire balancing in Branson - Tom
- 1 tick bite resulting in ER visit and antibiotics - Vinnie
- 1 new carburetor (Fed ex'd) - Paul
- 1 new set of rear shocks - Paul
- 3 car rentals - Paul, Mike and Vinnie with a full-size chaser truck in Albuquerque
- 3 tows: Mike, Sam, Jeff
- 1 accident mishap at gas station – Jeff. Some idiot side swiped his beautiful TA at the gas stop !!!
- 1 sun roof blew off going 80 and miraculously survived - Scott
- 1 warning ticket in Heber for going fast - Tim because he was in the lead 😊
- 1 lock nut holding on Sam's left rear tire, hence 1 tow truck
- 1 T/A stopped running in Heber – Jeff, hence tow truck
- **Az Runners had a segment on the 10 pm local TV news in Lincoln, Neb.**
- Avg speed on trip was probably 85 mph
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I think that covers it and why Sam coined it the Bandit Run Challenge!

All in all, a great trip plus we had Owen and Robbie with us enjoying themselves with us old farts and both were huge help on many fronts from wrenching to co-piloting. - Tom Knecht



Officers and Board of Directors, 2025-26

President: Paul Albinger Vice-President: Mark Neumann

Secretary: Vinnie LaMacchia Treasurer: Mike Fleury

Board of Directors: Bruce Almond, Frank Gostyla, Valerie Johnson,
Tom Knecht, Dave Koenig, Tom Locke, Larry McGown, Tom Mohr,
Mary Sundberg

Webmaster: Scott Svenheim

www.valleysunpontiacs.com

Pontiacs of the Valley newsletter editor: Mark Neumann

Facebook: Valley of the Sun Pontiacs