Pontiacs of the Valley

February 2026 | Newsletter of the Valley of the Sun Pontiacs Club
Chapter #107, Pontiac Oakland Club International

Next club meeting is March 18 at Rudy's Country Store/BBQ

Car Clinic and Pontiac Night at Cold Beer and Cheeseburgers this Saturday!

Good food, great company, beautiful Pontiacs

Annual holiday club party sets attendance record

We ate, drank and certainly spread some holiday cheer at our annual Valley

(left) One of three cakes prepared for the party; (right, l-r) Dave and Carol Koenig and son Riely took care of set-up and serving the taco lunches with help from Mike and Beth Grimm; Mary Sundberg and Dottie Mesner were the social hall decorators and cake makers.

of the Sun Pontiacs club party, held Feb. 7 in the social hall of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Scottsdale.

Over 125 club members and guests filled the room (top), festively decorated with a Christmas theme, to dine on great Mexican food from Taco Cinco restaurant in Scottsdale (https://taco-cinco.com/) and special desserts, compete for 10 great raffle prizes and enjoy the club's own all-Pontiac car show with more than 50 cars on display.

(l-r) Club members Carol and Dave Reichel and Michael "Blue" and Nadine Arries waiting for their table to be called up for lunch. The Arries drove down from Cottonwood for the party. (right) Club members Rich and Nancy Wilkinson arrived in their beautiful 1963 Bonneville station wagon.

Special thanks to Thom and Elly Mohr, who served as liaisons with the church, and our great day-of-party photographers Mark Shuto and Carol Hagood. The club also held its monthly meeting during the party.

Check out more photos and videos from the event on our club Facebook page.

Join us for our next club meeting!!

The meeting is being held Wednesday, March 18 at Rudy's Country Store and BBQ, starting with dinner at 5:30 pm, and the meeting at 7 pm. Address is 15257 N. Northsight Blvd., Scottsdale.

Rudy's REAL TEXAS BAR-B-Q

Cars and parts for sale by club members

-1969 Bonneville Coupe. 70,000 miles. Asking $34,500. Contact John Pinto at: jpintoii@hotmail.com

-1972 Pontiac Grand Prix custom convertible. Asking $75,000. Contact Gary Derner at: geesderner@yahoo.com

-1951 Pontiac Chieftan Deluxe. Asking $60,000. Contact: Joel Hernandez at xmarinero01@yahoo.com

-Original gas tank from 1972 Pontiac GTO, comes with straps. Asking $100. Radiator from same car. Asking $125. Both in good condition.

Contact: Robert Mock at nashmetro57@aol.com

Valley of the Sun PONTIACS PHOENIX ARIZONA

ARIZONA CHAPTER Nº 29 PONTIAC-OAKLAND CLUB, INT'L

45TH anniversary

ARIZONA

Statewide Picnic

CASA GRANDE

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF POCI ACTIVITY IN ARIZONA!

BRINGING TOGETHER PHOENIX and TUCSON and all POCI Chapter members throughout ARIZONA!

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Dave White Regional Park, Casa Grande, AZ 85122
2121 N. Thornton Road • Ramada "D" • Arrive at 12 Noon

CATERED PICNIC LUNCH

BBQ Pulled Pork, buns/cornbread, mac & cheese, baked beans, pickles, chips, Ghirardelli chocolate brownies.

COST: $10 per person

We're requesting a $10/person donation from all chapter members and their families, TO BE COLLECTED AT EVENT.

YOU MUST RSVP!*

The caterer must know in advance how much food to prepare. Let us know how many are in your party:

RESERVE YOUR MEAL(S): Contact member Valerie Johnson at (208) 604-4303 or email: vallynne1959@gmail.com

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026.

***NOTE:** If you do not wish to partake of this catered meal, you may instead bring your own picnic food items AND you do not need to RSVP. Simply join us in Casa Grande at Noon!

ENJOY ROOT BEER FLOATS!

Following lunch, participants will be treated to old-fashioned Root Beer Floats ... and perhaps a few other fun surprises, too!

WHAT TO BRING:

Please bring your own choice of beverage to enjoy during lunch.
NOTE: If you do not wish to reserve any $10 meals from our designated local caterer, you may instead bring your own picnic food items. Due to numerous factors, we discourage the use of the barbecue grills during our annversary gathering.
You may also bring your own folding chairs, tables and canopies, but they are not at all neccesary.

PAYMENT: PLEASE BRING **CASH** TO PAY FOR YOUR MEALS ONSITE. These funds will reimburse both club treasuries.

QUESTIONS? If you have questions, and/or to make your reservations, contact:
Valerie Johnson at (208) 604-4303 • vallynne1959@gmail.com

TWO CARAVANS: From Chandler: Meet @ Wild Horse Pass Casino (West of I-10 & Sundust Rd) at 11:00am; Depart 15 mins later.
From NW Tucson: Meet @ QuikTrip Gas, 6455 W. Twin Peaks Rd (East of I-10) at 11:00am; Depart 15 mins later.

President's Message

We sure had a great annual party and meeting on Feb. 7, with a great time and turnout from our membership. Good food, good weather, awesome cars, and most importantly, wonderful people.

We were pleased to have special guests Lisa and Blu Saiz and their son Stevie at the party. The three travelled from Globe to represent the families and staff who faced the devastating flood in that town and in Miami, AZ last fall (the club donated $8,000 to help 4 automotive shops in Globe and Miami). The Saizs own Blue's Kustom and Fabrication.

The club honored the Saizs with a special plaque (left) for the work they did to help neighbors recover, and the club provided $200 to help cover the cost of their journey.

More involvement

The party was a great example of club members volunteering to coordinate an event and making it a success. We have over 200 members in our club and I know we cannot get 100% attendance at our events. We do have good participation; however we just can't sit back and accept that as the best we can do. How do we get even better?

E#1 ENJOY all the benefits of being a member of the Valley of The Sun Pontiacs. There are many opportunities, especially meeting and sharing time with awesome people.

E#2 ENGAGE and take some time away from the busy lives we experience on a daily basis. Get out of the house, turn off the TV and just come on out to meet with your fellow Pontiackers!!!

E#3 EMBARK (my favorite "E"). I am not very comfortable with complacency. I love enjoying things the club has to offer. I love engaging and being a part of the events. However, we all need to EMBARK on being a part of events…to help make it happen. That could be by helping organize, or plan, or delivering a particular event, action, or opportunity to the club. That is helping the club become better.

Many times people do not know how or are shy in offering their help. Perhaps you would like to start something new? All of us have talents of different sorts. Let's use them to make our club events better. If you are not sure or if there is something you would like to get involved in, call me, contact me, or talk to me about it. Once you **Embark,** it makes the **Engagement** and **Enjoyment** all that much better.

One way for club members to follow the 3Es is coming up next month – our 28th annual Buick-Olds-Pontiac-Cadillac and GMC Car Show and Swap Meet on March 22. Turn in your online registration today – (a tutorial on how to register is in this newsletter).

And let's see some engagement from our members: BOPC volunteers are needed for judging, parking and other assignments. Lots of opportunities to help!

Paul

Paul Albinger, Jr.

Great turnout on cruise to Jake's Corner in Payson

There is nothing like starting the new year with a cruise in your Pontiac hot rod. Mother nature didn't cooperate with our best efforts on Jan. 1 for our annual

New Year's Day cruise, so club organizers moved the date to Jan. 25.

Beautiful weather greeted us that day with 34 club members and their families at the We Ko Pa RV Park on N. Fort McDowell Road for the start of the cruise. Club board member and organizer Valerie Johnson arranged to have us take a slow tour through the RV park (top), and we were greeted and got high 5's from many of the campers.

From there we had 19 cars cruising north up the beautiful Beeline Highway to Jake's Corner. The rustic, local watering hole – the site of a movie from 2008 with the same name – offered burgers, tacos, and finger food, with seating inside and out.

Pontiacs in Vegas on the Strip – Join the fun on the quarter mile!

March is going to be a great month for Valley of the Sun Pontiacs club events – the Midnight at the Oasis Car Show in Yuma; the Good Guys' FiTech Fuel Injection Spring Nationals at Westworld in Scottsdale and our own BOPC Show in Mesa.

To wrap up the month of Pontiac love, we have a great opportunity for a road trip to Vegas for the 4th annual Pontiacs At The Strip Show and Drags at the end of March. Come see club members Frank Gostyla and Rick Unterseh go racing!

Pontiacs at the Strip Show and Drags will be held at Las Vegas Motor Speedway (7000 N. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas).

Here are the details for Valley of the Sun Pontiacs participants:

- Depart Phoenix on Thursday, March 26 (departure time/meetup location to be determined)
- Show and drag racing is Friday – Sunday, March 27-29
- Most likely a departure of Sunday AM back to Phoenix

Hotel reservations via www.hotels.com
We are staying at LaQuinta Inn and Suites by Wyndam Las Vegas Nellis
4288 N Nellis Blvd, Las Vegas, 89115
You are responsible for making your own reservations.

Registering for the show
The show registration form is available at www.MATSLV.com. Scroll down to "Car Show" link. We should sign up for the Pontiac Judged Class.

Contact Tom Knecht at 602-708-6960 for more details.

It's TIME – to register your Pontiacs for our BOPC+GMC '26!

Last year, our Valley of the Sun Pontiacs club set a new record for the number of Pontiacs at our Buick-Olds-Pontiac-Cadillac+GMC Car Show – 159 cars.

As of Feb. 13 – about 6 weeks before this year's show – we are at 66 Pontiacs.

It's time to register – and the new online process is easier than you think.

You not only save BIG money by registering early – $28 vs. $40 day-of-show. You give our club volunteers who are handling registration, parking, raffles and judging at the show more time to make the show a success.

And our new online process takes the hassle out of sending in the registration form, a check, and hoping it was received. It's easy!

Tutorial: Registering your car or GMC truck for the 2026 Buick-Olds-Pontiac-Cadillac + GMC Car Show

Date: March 22
Location: East Valley Institute of Technology, 1601 W. Main Street, Mesa, AZ
Time of show: 10 am-3 pm; registration/check-in opens at 8:00 am

1. Go to the Valley of the Sun Pontiacs website (www.valleysunpontiacs.com) and click on the flyer for the show on our home page.

2. That takes you to the back of the flyer. That will show you the classes you can register your car(s), contact information, and details of the event.

3. You now have two options to get to the Car Show Pro website and our event page to register your car: scan the QR code with your cell phone camera on the

flyer OR click on the link provided. Either one will get you to the site and our event page.

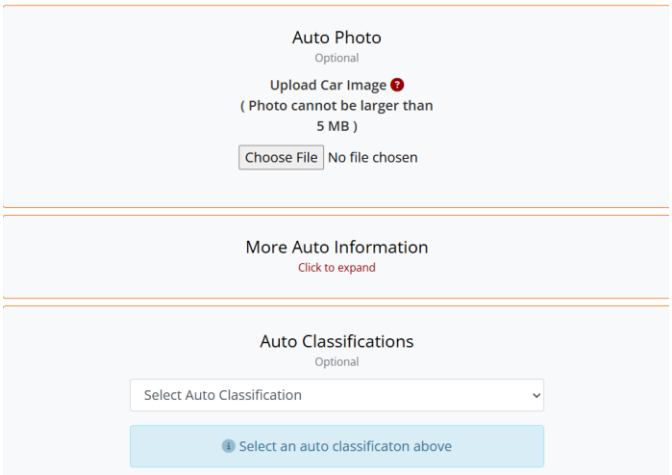
- TO PRE-REGISTER ON-LINE USE THIS QR CODE or URL LINK BELOW:

https://carshowpro.com/event/2831

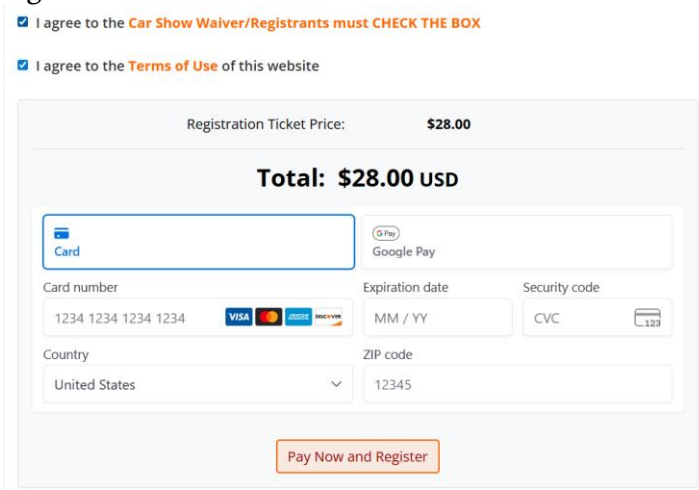
4. That page on the Car Show Pro website looks like this. Our event page has lots of information about the show. Click on the "Register for this Event" bar.

5. That will take you to the BOPC car show registration page. THERE IS NO NEED TO CREATE A LOGIN TO THE SITE. Once you register, the site will do that for you.

6. Scroll down and fill out the personal and auto information requested in the form to start your registration. Adding a photo of your car is optional and not required to complete registration. Then select the "auto classification" button to choose your class, and add club affiliation as "Valley of the Sun Pontiacs." It will auto-populate once you start typing.



7. Fill in your payment information, then click, "Pay Now to Register." Once this is accepted, it will automatically generate an email to you to confirm you are registered for the show.



You're done!

Contact show administrator Tom Knecht (602-708-6960) if you experience any trouble registering. Contact Mike Fleury (843-860-0791; mwfleury@bellsouth.net) if you want to register a second car.

54th Annual POCI International Convention

CONVENTION UPDATES AT WWW.POCI.ORG
FOR MORE INFO CALL THE CLUB OFFICE 763-479-2111
— REGISTRATION FORM ON REVERSE —

- TOURS
- SEMINARS
- SWAP MEET
- 100TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE
- POINTS-JUDGED SHOW
- POPULAR VOTE SHOW
- GUEST SPEAKERS
- CAR RAFFLE
GIVING IT AWAY AT THE CONVENTION (YEA IT'S A PONTIAC!)
- AND MUCH MORE

PONTIAC

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN
JUNE 22-27, 2026

"Home for the Hundredth"

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PONTIAC-MOTOR-DIVISION

PONTIAC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

HOSTED BY THE PONTIAC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM AND THE MICHIGAN POCI CHAPTERS

2026 POCI Convention Registration Form

54th Annual

Pontiac Oakland Club International Convention

June 22-27, 2026

Host Hotel: Marriott Centerpoint

(Auburn Hills Marriott)
3600 Centerpoint Parkway
Pontiac, Michigan 48341
(248) 253-9800

Registration is required for all members, even if not entering a vehicle.

Member Registration Fee: $65.00 ~ After May 15, 2026: $85.00
(Registration Fee Includes Member, Spouse and Children)

Mail this form to:

POCI 2026 Convention
PO Box 421
Long Lake, MN 55356

Convention updates are posted at www.poci.org
For convention questions, call the POCI Club Office (763) 479-2111

Convention Coordinators: Art Barrett (417) 737-1469 artbarrett@centurytel.net
Larry Crider (918) 798-2765 pontiacfun@gmail.com
Host Chapter Contact: Tim Dye (815) 510-8950 Penny Dye (815) 822-5259

The convention registration fee is non-refundable.

Pay by credit card, check or money order made payable to:
"2026 POCI Convention". You may register on line at: WWW.POCI.ORG

Name _____ POCI #_____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell # _____

E-mail: _____

Credit Card # _____-_____-_____-_____

(Visa, MC or Discover) Exp. Date _____/_____ Security Code: _____

Spotlight: Unique classic car restoration program at McPherson College gets younger generation interested in old cars

by Peter Senese

The Valley of the Sun Pontiac club always supports investing in young people who would like to maintain and even own classic Pontiacs. This is proven by our current support for the EVIT automotive classes.

Our club is onboard with the goal to keep our Pontiacs on the road and this means we need to have a good supply of people who have the skills to keep them on the road so they can be enjoyed by Pontiac enthusiasts and the general public.

McPherson College, based in Kansas, was established in 1976 thanks to the generosity and foresight of a local Kansas entrepreneur who gifted the college over 125 classic and antique cars. This huge gift in turn provided initial funds for their automotive restoration program.

Four-year degree

McPherson is the only college in the country to offer a 4-year bachelor's liberal arts and technology degree in automotive restoration with a strong focus on classic and vintage cars. With a 12:1 student/teacher ratio, the college offers not only hands-on instruction but a broad-based education in the history and cultural significance of automobiles.

In 1997, their automotive restoration program attracted the attention of comedian and car collector Jay Leno, who established the Fred S. Duesenberg Scholarship and the Jay Leno Popular Mechanics scholarship. Both scholarships continue to provide financial assistance to students interested in studying classic automotive restoration. Jay Leno's involvement raised awareness of the program in the car collector community.

McPherson is the only college in the country to offer a 4-year bachelor's liberal arts and technology degree in automotive restoration with a strong focus on classic and vintage cars.

Currently there are 175 students enrolled in McPherson's automotive restoration program which provides hands-on instruction on classic cars such as engine mechanics, mechanical systems, bodywork, upholstery & trim, paint chemistry and sheet metal shaping. The college allows their students to make industry connections with companies such as Hagerty, Mercedes-Benz Classic Center, RM Sotheby's, and Classiccars.com (media).

There are many activities and opportunities for students to show their new skills learned at McPherson College. The school enters one of their restored vehicles in the annual Copper State Rally.

Award at Pebble Beach

The students in the auto restoration program were awarded a second place in the Postwar Luxury category in 2023 for their restored 1953 Mercedes-Benz 300S Cabriolet at the 72nd Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance. It was entirely restored by students at McPherson College and it was the first time in the history of the show that a car restored by students landed a podium spot.

There is also a student-led club called C.A.R.S (College Automotive Restoration Students). This year the club will mark its 25th anniversary. The club gives students an opportunity to get together and share their passion for automobiles outside of the classroom. Club members are able to participate in numerous events throughout the year, including car shows, cruises, travel, old car movie nights, and insider trips to museums and private collections. The highlight of each year is the student-led C.A.R.S. Show in the spring, where students plan their own large car show unlike anything else in the area. Around 400 cars enter the show from around the country.

(left) The winning 1953 Mercedes Benz at Pebble Beach Concours; (bottom) during its restoration at the Auto Restoration Program at McPherson College.

The graduation rate for the 4-year bachelor's degree in automotive restoration is about 85%, with about 95% of the students finding a job within six months after graduation and 2/3 of graduates securing a job before graduation!

Graduates working in the Phoenix area

There are about 10 businesses in the Phoenix area that employ graduates of the McPherson College restoration program. It was learned that about 90% of the students in the

program are out-of-state for the 2025-2026 school year. Tuition for out-of-state students is $49,000 which includes campus housing. Costs can be lower with financial aid.

McPherson says 100% of students receive financial assistance each year from federal/state programs, work-study programs and educational loans. Most students rely on scholarship support for tuition. The average automotive restoration student needs about $14,500 in aid towards their tuition.

Our Pontiac club is looking into the possibility of providing tuition support/scholarship for McPherson College students enrolled in their automotive program that are from Arizona. For the current school year McPherson College has 3 students from Arizona enrolled in the program, consisting of 2 juniors and 1 senior, and all have better than a 3.5 GPA.

For more information, visit www.mcpherson.edu/autorestoration

Don't miss a club activity!

Here is what we have on the Valley of the Sun Pontiacs schedule for 2026. More to come! Always check our website (www.valleysunpontiacs.com) and our Facebook page for updates.

Club meeting dates (third Wednesday of the month, dinner at 5:30 pm; meeting starts at 7:00 pm). Rudy's Country Store and Barbeque, 15257 N. Northsight Blvd., Scottsdale
Upcoming meetings: March 18, April 15, May 20

Upcoming events

Feb. 14: Car Clinic at Frank Gostyla's Garage, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. 1134 E. North Lane, Scottsdale
Feb. 14: Pontiac Night at Cold Beer and Cheeseburgers, Pima Crossing, 8624 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale. 3:00 pm -
Feb. 21: 15th Annual Mountain Bridge Classic Car Show, 10 am – 1 pm. Awards. Owners Club Park, 8730 E Mountain Bridge Dr, Mesa. Register (free) at https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/xvdtkh2
March 6-8: Midnight at the Oasis Car Show, Yuma (coordinator: Board member Tom Locke)
March 13-14: Good Guys's FiTech Fuel Injection Spring Nationals, Westworld
March 18: Club Meeting @ Rudy's Country Store and BBQ in Scottsdale
March 22: Buick-Olds-Pontiac-Cadillac+GMC Car Show and Swap Meet, EVIT Campus, Mesa (see tutorial for registering online).
March 27-29: Muscle Cars on the Strip, Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Info: Rick Unterseh (480-570-5583; nhra7769@gmail.com) or visit www.MATSLV.com.
April 15: Club Meeting @ Rudy's Country Store and BBQ in Scottsdale
April 19: Arizona chapter 45th anniversary state-wide picnic, Casa Grande

- **Look for weekly updates on our VSP club events!**

Club member Owen Zangle puts together a weekly update, sent out on Thursdays, for club affiliated and other car shows around the Valley. If you want to add an event, contact Owen at owenzangle@gmail.com

THE GOODMAN TAYLOR TEAM

Ahwatukee Car Show

2-28-2026

Precision Auto Body

Earnhardt "No Bull" Since 1951

Ford

Hope For The Homeless

4th Ahwatukee

SATURDAY 9AM-1PM

Mountain Park Church | 16461 S 48th St, PHX 85048

Trophies • Food Trucks • Vendors • Raffles

FREE dyno provided by Big O Tires!!!*

*We are asking for a donation of new blankets, socks & underwear for Hope For The Homeless

Enter to win a 1979 Chevrolet C10 with a rebuilt 5.3L LS1 all proceeds going to Hope For the Homeless!

Go to www.hope4thehomelessaz.com to purchase raffle tickets

Thank you to our sponsors: Big O Tires

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S&R Stone Rose Law

two maids Let Life Shine

Sweet Chile Life

For more info and to register your car visit:
www.ahwatukeecarshow.com

AMR

Anthem at Merrill Ranch

2026 CAR SHOW

Saturday | February 21
11 am
Anthem Community Park

Vehicle Registration

Music | Food Trucks | Vendors | Door Prizes and CARS!!

Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles and Golf Carts
Open Show - No Classess

Trophy's and Cash Prizes.

1st Place Grand Champion $150 Visa Gift Card | 2nd Place $75.00 Visa Gift Card
3rd Place $50.00 Visa Gift Card | Honorable Mention $25.00 Visa Gift Card

NAME:_____

CITY:_____ STATE:_____

EMAIL:_____ PHONE:_____

CAR/MOTORCYCLE YEAR_____ MAKE_____ MODEL_____

CLUB _____

$5.00 entry fee per vehicle. Email completed registration form to jocalvin@associatedasset.com or drop off at Anthem Parkside Community Center. Payments via credit card or debit contact Melody at 520-723-6654. **Event location 3313 N Anthem Way, Florence, AZ 85131**

By my signature I acknowledge that I have read , understand and accept the rules and waiver set forth.

_____ _____
Signature Date

Thank you to our sponsors.

Florence Copper

DOLLAR SELF STORAGE

TRULY HOLEN

An Anthem at Merrill Ranch Community Council Event

PONTIACS OF IDAHO PRESENTS

The ALL GM Car Show

PONTIACS OF IDAHO

SATURDAY MAY 30, 2026 @ 9:00-2:00

SUMMIT CHURCH 10375 W OVERLAND RD BOISE, ID

PONTIAC MOTOR DIVISION 100th Anniversary 1926-2026

PROCEEDS BENEFIT PAYETTE RIVER REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

P2RTA

REGISTER HERE

$25 PREREGISTRATION FEE
TILL APRIL 30TH
INCLUDES EVENT T-SHIRT

$20 REGISTRATION AT EVENT
EVENT T-SHIRT NOT INCLUDED
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

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