



Pontiacs of the Valley

May 2026 | Newsletter of the Valley of the Sun Pontiacs Club
Chapter #107, Pontiac Oakland Club International
Next club meeting is May 20 at Rudy's Country Store/BBQ

Pontiac Night this Saturday at Cold Beer & Cheeseburgers in Scottsdale!

Pontiacking for 45 years in Southern Arizona

Tucson-based POCI chapter #29 celebrates a birthday with us in Casa Grande

Every birthday is important, but 45 years as a chapter of Pontiac Oakland Club International is pretty special.



Both the Arizona chapter #29 and Valley of the Sun Pontiacs chapter #107 gathered on April 19 at Dave White Regional Park in Casa Grande to celebrate the AZ chapter's 45th anniversary, with a "spin" of 45s (records), great barbeque,



special desert, (including root beer floats) and trivia contests.



How it all began

POCI Arizona chapter Sherwood appreciates the chapter. "We can be quite proud

president Thom longevity of his that the Arizona Chapter #29



has remained healthy and active since June of 1981 when we first received our charter from POCI," Sherwood wrote in his president's message in a recent edition of *Hot Air*, the chapter's monthly newsletter.

"To celebrate, our group is returning to the exact same location where our final meeting as a sole "statewide" chapter took place.

“Yes, shortly after that 1993 gathering at Dave White Park in Casa Grande, members from the Metro Phoenix area launched a highly anticipated second chapter and officially became the Desert Renegades of Arizona Chapter #65.”

The Desert Renegades joined with the Cactus GTO Club, a GTO Association of America chapter, to form the Valley of the Sun Pontiacs chapter #107 in December 2022.

Special thanks to Valerie Johnson for organizing the picnic. Great desserts were provided by Mary Sundberg and Dodie Messer, and club presidents Thom Sherwood and Paul Albinger for championing the event. Let’s plan the next birthday party for our own chapter down the road!

Welcome new members to our Pontiac club!

Joe & Gail Ruize Ron Johnson Mike Metcalfe Bryan Greene Dave Green Harry Roers

New Member Spotlight

1964 GTO – Joe and Gail Ruize

First of all, thank you for adding us to the Valley of the Sun Pontiacs. We look forward to meeting members of the club.

We recently acquired our 1964 GTO from the second owner. The car started life as a graduation present for a girl living in New Orleans. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to northern California. Several years later she parked the car where it sat for 30+ years. It was then purchased by the second owner and underwent a restoration. The car has been driven sparingly over the last 10 years.

The GTO is for the most part how it left the factory with only the addition of disc brakes. An interesting fact is the car came to us with the original rims with redline tires dated 1963 (see photo).



1979 10th Anniversary Trans Am – Michael Metcalfe

My '79 Trans Am has the 400/4 speed with 75,000 miles. The car is pretty much all original down to the working 8 track player with the red digital radio! I’m slowly fixing up the interior (replaced headliner and front seat covers and foam) and will eventually paint it but I’m kinda liking the patina look! My dad has always loved Pontiacs; I grew up with them and when he found this car, 6 months later he found something else. I HAD to grab it from him! Love It!





Cruz'n the Rim Car Show

Saturday, June 6th 9 am - 3 pm

Frontier Field 650 N 9th Place, Show Low

More info: Contact Valley of the Sun Board member Dave Koenig at 602-571-8496 for meetup information. For registration info, write to

cruznttherim@gmail.com

President's Message



It's May and we are winding down the "formal" part of the Valley of the Sun Pontiac club season, meaning we have no meeting in June, July, or August. That is mostly due to the heat and how it affects us and our cars.

HOWEVER---there will still be groups of people and cars meeting at events through the summer months in the Valley, heat and all. There will be first Tuesdays of the month on the Eastside at The Gilbert Cold Beer and Cheeseburgers. Groups will also be meeting at the Cold Beer and Cheeseburgers at 101 and Shea and at Mixteca at 67th Ave and Bell.

Watch our Facebook page for updates and announcements. Club members Marc Shutro and Vinnie La Macchia will keep you informed.

And don't forget our big national Pontiac events this summer – POCI National Convention, the Bandit Run, Ames Pontiac Performance Nationals, Firebird Fest, Trans Am Nationals, GTOAA Convention...and many more.

At our upcoming May 20 meeting, we will have election of Officers and Board Members for 2026-27. Mark Neumann will be stepping down as Vice-President and Valerie Johnson will be stepping down from the Board of Directors. A big thank you goes out to both for their contributions to our club. We'll also have a special guest speaker: local Hagerty agent Russ Beyer will talk about the classic car hobby insurance market.

We will also update everyone on the upcoming Silver Classic Car Auction commitment and what the club's auction committee will be doing throughout the summer in preparing for this event. We are taking on a significantly larger role in managing the auction and it will mandate a lot of club participation. But it has always been fun! We aren't just going to drive in the auction. Stay tuned.

At our May 20 meeting, we will also have discussions about our October cruise to the Globe/Miami area, the Good Guys show this fall, as well as the upcoming Bandit Run and the POCI convention, which a good number of our members will be going to. We will have a report on the Route 66 cruise occurring this month and a report of what to expect at the October Route 66 event Valerie Johnson is chairing.

Although we take a "summer hiatus" from normal VOSP club activities, I personally want to thank all those who were active in our club this year, organizing and participating in the numerous shows, cruise ins, parties, meetings, cruises and all that makes our club great. Have a great summer and hopefully you can attend our club meeting on May 20th.

Paul

Paul Albinger, Jr

Join us for our next club meeting!!

The meeting is being held Wednesday, May 20 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.



Cars and parts for sale

>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

>1973 Pontiac Trans Am. Asking \$100,000. Contact: Gary Rude at garyrude@gooseneckimp.com.



< 1974 Pontiac Grand Am project. Rare factory 4 speed with factory installed sunroof. Numbers-matching 400/Muncie 4 speed included. Asking \$6,000 obo. Car is in Chandler. Other Pontiac parts available. Contact: Ian Coffman at 503-913-8612.



<1970's era Pontiac 8-Track player. Will fit any GTO/Firebird/Grand Prix. Model 72FT41 Restored in April 2026 by The Radio Doctor in Phoenix. Some of the brackets included in the price. Price \$390.

>1970's era Pontiac AM/FM Stereo Radio. Model 02 GFM1 Removed from a 1970 Grand Prix. Restored by The Radio Doctor in April. Price \$550. Contact: Michael Jewell at 602-916-3391; Email: jewellmichael57@gmail.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



SPECIAL MEETING FOR ALL THOSE GOING TO THE POCI NATIONAL CONVENTION IN JUNE!

We'll meet at 5:30 pm on May 20 @ Rudy's before our regular club meeting. Contact Paul Albinger (480-284-3607) for more information.

Club Adopt-A-Highway Program needs a new manager!



Hundreds of pounds of garbage have been collected by club members who have volunteered a day in the spring and fall to clean up a mile along the Apache Trail as part of the state's Adopt-A-Highway program.

After serving as trusty managers of the cleanup for many years, club members Tim and June Smith are ready to hand over the reigns to a new leader.

If you enjoy doing your part to help keep Arizona clean, and working with other like-minded volunteers, let us know if you can take on this leadership role to organize our pickups twice a year. Trash pickers, safety vests, and the ADOT "blue bags" are provided for volunteers and the club treats all workers to lunch at Tortilla Flat afterwards!

Your responsibilities would include:

- Select dates in the spring and fall for the cleanup
- Recruit volunteers (both in and outside the club; family members can join, too)
- On the day of the cleanup (launched from the Needle Vista Viewpoint along the Apache Trail), direct your volunteers and manage the cleanup route; provide water. Full bags can be left on the side of the road for pickup by ADOT.

It's a great way to enjoy a day out in the desert, and doing our part to keep one of our favorite road trips in clean condition!

Interested? Contact Mark Neumann at 602-653-5074 or markneumann16@gmail.com



On May 15, Stop DRAGin' Your Feet!



Come out for Friday Night Racing at Firebird!

Join fellow Pontiacers like **Rick Unterseh** and **Frank Gostyla** on May 15 at Firebird Raceway for street-legal-style drag racing at Friday Night Drags! Gate 3 opens at 5:30 pm; racing starts at 6:30 pm.

“Run What You Brung” open drags have been a staple of the Arizona racing community for over 25 years. Whether you are driving an all-out race car or your daily driver, you can race down the same 1/4-mile track that the NHRA Pro drivers do. On a typical Friday night, you can expect to see everything from a minivan to an occasional jet car testing!

- Check out this page on the Firebird website to help prepare you for your first time drag racing experience: <https://racefirebird.com/racer-info/>
- Ask our club drag racing experts Rick Unterseh (480-570-5583) or Frank Gostyla (804-307-5427) about how to prepare your car. Both will be there at the track to help you with your first time down the quarter mile!

Firebird Motorsports Park
20000 S Maricopa Road
Chandler

54th Annual **POCI** International Convention

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN
JUNE 22-27, 2026

"Home for the Hundredth"
CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF PONTIAC-MOTOR-DIVISION

CONVENTION UPDATES AT WWW.POCI.ORG
FOR MORE INFO CALL THE CLUB OFFICE 763-479-2111



- TOURS
- SEMINARS
- SWAP MEET
- 100TH ANNIV. PARADE
- POINTS-JUDGED SHOW
- POPULAR VOTE SHOW
- GUEST SPEAKERS
- CAR RAFFLE GIVEAWAY!
(YES, IT'S A PONTIAC!)
- FREE ADMISSION TO
MUSEUM FOR REGISTRANTS
- CRUISE WOODWARD AVE.
- AND MUCH MORE

PONTIAC

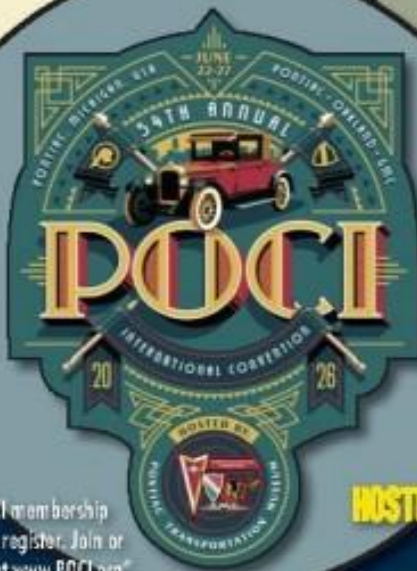


WELCOMING ALL YEARS
OF PONTIACS, OAKLANDS
AND GMC TRUCKS!



**HOSTED BY THE PONTIAC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
AND THE MICHIGAN POCI CHAPTERS**

Valid POCI membership
required to register. Join or
renew now at www.POCI.org





AWARD WINNING
SAN DIEGO PONTIAC
OAKLAND CLUB INT'L



May 2026

JOIN THE PONTIAC OAKLAND CLUB INTERNATIONAL (POCI)

We Invite You To Join!

Keeping The Pontiac Legacy Alive...

Formed in 1972 by a small group of enthusiasts who wanted to pool as much Pontiac and Oakland information as was possible, the first convention was held the following year in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Since then, POCI chapters have formed all over the country and POCI Conventions have been held every year in a variety of locations. The events include a car show, tech seminars, presentations, drag racing and a great swap meet. GMC trucks were included in 1998, due to their close relation to Pontiac.

The club's magazine, *Smoke Signals*, also started in 1972 and has evolved into a world-class, award-winning monthly that continues to raise the bar for non-commercial publications. *Smoke Signals* was redesigned in 2006 and again in 2013. Today, it is a 92 to 100-page, full-color publication printed on heavyweight paper and also comes in digital form.

We are very excited with the future of the Pontiac hobby and we invite you to join POCI and start receiving *Smoke Signals*. Please note that members get access to download our digital editions that go all the way back to 2006.

We welcome anyone and everyone with an interest in Pontiacs, Oaklands and GMCs of any age or type to join us. Just use the membership form provided and get in on the action.

Whether you have an early Pontiac, a muscle-era GTO or Firebird, a full-sized Wide Tracker or late-model Trans Am, Solstice, or G8, we have a place for you and your car.

We thank you for your time and look forward to seeing you at a POCI event soon!

Annual Membership Fees

Worldwide Electronic-Membership

(downloadable version of Smoke Signals, no magazine is mailed): \$25

United States Membership: \$45

Outside of U.S. Membership: \$74

All memberships except E-memberships come with two free associate memberships. Associate members are spouse/significant other and/or a dependent child, 19 years old or younger living with you.

Join Online at www.poci.org -Visa, Mastercard, Discover accepted



Call the Club Office for more information
(763) 479-2111

Web Site: www.poci.org
Facebook: Pontiac Oakland Club
E-Mail: pociworldhq@aol.com



Officers and Board of Directors, 2025-26

President: Paul Albinger

Vice-President: Mark Neumann

Secretary: Owen Zangle and Robbie LaMacchia

Treasurer: Mike Fleury

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

Webmaster: Scott Svenheim

www.valleysunpontiacs.com

Pontiacs of the Valley newsletter editor: Mark Neumann

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