

**PONTIACS**<sup>TH</sup>  
of **CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**  
1993-2023

# THE STRAIGHT ARROW

# PONTIACS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER

POCC EST. 1993



POCI CHAPTER #67  VOLUME 30 8-2023  
PONTIACSOFCENTRALCALIFORNIA.ORG




# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Presidents Message August 2023

Every once and while you run across information that you think maybe I should have known or why did I miss this? The following is one of those of those issues for me that maybe everybody else knows but I missed.

I have been attending car shows in the Central California area for many years. Through these years I have always admired the Chevrolet El Camino of which many really nice ones exist in this area. So why didn't Pontiac ever enter this market? The answer to this is that they tried to.

This began as an experiment in the Pontiac Engineering Department and came about when the engineering staff noted the apparent early success of the El Camino and the Ford Ranchero and decided to propose that Pontiac enter this market. Their design included using the front half of a standard, normal looking wide-track 1960 Catalina and the back half that resembled an El Camino pick up bed with 1960 Catalina body lines. This created the only Pontiac El Camino design ever made and it became known as the El Catalina. Unfortunately, the excitement of the Pontiac Engineers to build a Pontiac El Camino was not enough to carry this experiment into the real world. The top-level executives looked at the financial analysis of the venture and noted the comparatively small initial sales of both the El Camino and Ranchero and dropped the idea. Only two Pontiac El Catalina's were ever produced but neither was ever assigned a VIN. So, do they really exist?

Other ideas regarding the El Camino concept survived for a short while in the Canadian and to some degree the American GM markets. You might see one of them every once in a while. The GMC Caballero. 

**30** <sup>TH</sup>  
**PONTIACS**  
of **C**ENTRAL  
CALIFORNIA  
1993-2023



**Pontiac of Central California  
Minutes—July 10, 2023  
Meeting**



1. CALL TO ORDER  
Meeting was called to order at 7PM
2. VISITORS OR GUESTS PRESENT  
No visitors or guests
3. MINUTES OF THE May 08, 2023 MEETING  
No comments on the May 8, 2023 meeting minutes. They were adopted as submitted
4. TREASURERS REPORT  
Dave Valla the last month fiscal status
5. NEWSLETTER/WEBMASTER  
Bill Richards has information regarding the Clubs' website being down. It is currently unknown as to when it will be back.  
John Berglund reported that the Toys for Tots flyers draft has been made and it will be put out for review prior to being printed.
6. FACEBOOK  
Sheryl Hammans reported there was no change in Facebook activities.
7. BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES  
Paula, Carolyn and Bill's Birthday
8. HEALTH AND WELFARE
9. OLD BUSINESS  
\* POCC 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Committee Report  
Currently the time for this event has been established as 11am to 3pm on Oct 14. Invitation cards  
Were discussed that would provide perspective attendees information and to send in.  
Ideas discussed for food included main dish catered members to provide potluck. Another idea  
was to cater main dish and the sides with club members providing desserts.  
\*Toys for Tots Car Show Status Report  
John Berglund reviewed the 2023 Flyer for the Toys for Tots Car Show. Dave Valla stated that 1000 copies were made  
initially last year. It was agreed that it would be the same this year. The solicitation of sponsors for the show was also  
discussed.
10. NEW BUSINESS  
\*2023 Club Donations-consider donations to Toys for Tots and Clovis Baptist Church  
Bill Richards reviewed the club bylaws regarding the selection of Toys for Tots as the clubs 2023 charity. Dave Valla stated  
that for the past 2 years the club has donated \$500 to the Clovis Baptist Church in recognition of their assistance with the  
Car Show.  
  
MOTION BY ARNIE SCHWEER AND SECOND BY LORI SANDELIN TO SPLIT THIS YEAR'S DONATION TO \$500 EACH  
TO THE CLOVIS BAPTIST CHURCH AND TO THE FRESNO COUNTY TOYS FOR TOTS PROGRAM



## 11. ACTIVITIES

Andy Hoff reviewed the last activity at the Beekman's Bees facility. He also reviewed the upcoming activity, which is a Breakfast cruise the Red Caboose Café in Sanger. There will not be a formal activity in August. Bill Richards asked about the club displaying cars at Madera Fair this year. Mike King is going to check on this.

## 12. LADIES LUNCHEON

Cheryl Richards stated that the July Ladies Luncheon will be on Wednesday, July 26 at the Lazy Dog Restaurant in Fresno.

## 13. ANNOUCEMENTS

### 14 ATTENDANCE DRAWING

Dennis Schwarz won the drawing but was not present so next month's drawing will be \$60.



## MEMBERS ATTENDING

Richards, Valla, Sandelin, Berglund, Lanier, King, Bianchi, Hammans, Hoff, Schweer





# POCC OFFICERS

## PONTIACS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA OFFICERS, 2023

|            |                 |              |  |
|------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| PRESIDENT  | Bill Richards   | 559-375-3942 | <a href="mailto:bgrichards@sbcglobal.net">bgrichards@sbcglobal.net</a>         |
| ACTING VP  | Andy Hoff       | 559-304-8836 | <a href="mailto:andiana766@gmail.com">andiana766@gmail.com</a>                 |
| SECRETARY  | Cheryl Richards | 559-301-0553 | <a href="mailto:crichards93711@sbcglobal.net">crichards93711@sbcglobal.net</a> |
| TREASURER  | Dave Valla      | 559-2463684  | <a href="mailto:dvalla55yahoo.com">dvalla55yahoo.com</a>                       |
| NEWSLETTER | John Berglund   | 559-790-9271 | <a href="mailto:johnberglund421@gmail.com">johnberglund421@gmail.com</a>       |
| ACTIVITIES | Diane&Andy Hoff | 559-304-8836 | <a href="mailto:andiana766@gmail.com">andiana766@gmail.com</a>                 |
| WEBMASTER  | Brian Massey    | 559-645-8018 | <a href="mailto:bjmassey2@gmail.com">bjmassey2@gmail.com</a>                   |

## POCI OFFICERS 2023

|           |                    |              |  |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| PRESIDENT | Ron Berglund       | 559-259-2079 | <a href="mailto:pontiac335@gmail.com">pontiac335@gmail.com</a>       |
| SECRETARY | Peggy Mullinax Cox | 205-602-6463 | <a href="mailto:peggymullinax@yahoo.com">peggymullinax@yahoo.com</a> |

### Pontiacs of Central California Mission Statement:

#### **OUR MISSION, FUN!!!**

We are made up of a group of people with various backgrounds who have one thing in common, we LOVE **PONTIACS**. We drive 'em, work on 'em, polish 'em, restore 'em, break 'em (even cuss 'em) and have a lot of fun doing it. Be it an old '52 Chieftain straight-eight, a new WS6 Trans Am, or anything in between.

We are individuals, couples, and families that like to get together for a variety of activities. We host an annual judged car show and participate as a club in other local and regional car shows. We have informal BBQ Show and Shines and get together for Brunch and Dinner Cruises. We also attend the local Cruise Nights as a group. The cars in the club range from Concours cars, daily drivers, drag racers and cars undergoing restoration. Our goal is to have FUN while enjoying our **PONTIACS**.

*If this sounds like something you would enjoy,  
JOIN US!!!*

**General Membership meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, at Yosemite Falls in Granite Park at 7PM. interested visitors are welcome.**



## POCC Past Presidents

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Dennis Simonson   | 2021-2022 |
| Andy Hoff         | 2020      |
| Joel Garrett      | 2019      |
| Frank Mascola     | 2018      |
| Bill Richards     | 2017      |
| Dennis Simonson   | 2016      |
| Dean Davison      | 2015      |
| Ron Berglund      | 2014      |
| Bill Richards     | 2013      |
| Keith Watts       | 2012      |
| Jack Fusari       | 2011      |
| Dave Valla        | 2010      |
| Carl Smith        | 2009      |
| Joel Garrett      | 2008      |
| Greg Griggs       | 2007      |
| Bill Richards     | 2006      |
| Andy Hoff         | 2004-2005 |
| Ron Berglund      | 2003      |
| Joel Garrett      | 2001-2002 |
| Dan Seibert       | 2000      |
| Michael Yoshihara | 1999      |
| Glen McGhie       | 1998      |
| Joel Garrett      | 1996-1997 |
| Ron Berglund      | 1995      |
| Jeff Boyle        | 1993-1994 |



## Recruit a New Member!!!



### PONTIACS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

POCI Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

(If you are already a member of POCI)

Pontiacs You Own \_\_\_\_\_

Other Classics You Own \_\_\_\_\_

#### Dues

Membership effective date \_\_\_\_\_

Member: \$24 per year or \$2 per month if joining February or later \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member: \$5 per year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application and check payable to Pontiacs of Central California to:

Dave Valla  
2839 McKelvy  
Clovis CA 93611

POCC is a chapter of the Pontiac Oakland Club International (POCI) and we would like for our members to also be members of POCI, but it is not a requirement. The yearly membership fee for POCI includes a subscription to POCI's monthly magazine the Smoke Signals. The \$39 annual membership fee includes the Smoke Signals sent via U.S. mail while the \$25 annual membership fee is for an E Membership with full member privileges and online access to the Smoke Signals. Please visit [www.poci.org](http://www.poci.org) for further details.



# Join POCI!



## 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, Oakland's 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! (Taken from) [www.poci.org](http://www.poci.org)



## POCI Membership RENEWAL Form

Your subscription to *Smoke Signals* magazine and membership in the Pontiac-Oakland Club International may be due. If the renewal date on your mailing label (which is to the right of your membership number) is between **Feb. 1, 2020 and Mar. 31, 2020**, please complete this form and return it immediately with payment (photocopies are acceptable). We don't want you to miss a single issue of *Smoke Signals* or any other important information about POCI.

- \$25.00..... Worldwide E-Membership: Web Site access & downloadable version of *Smoke Signals* (NO *Smoke Signals* magazine is mailed)
  - \$45.00 ..... U.S. Membership (Includes 2 Associates)
  - \$74.00 ..... (U.S. Funds) Canadian Membership (Includes 2 Associates)
  - \$74.00 ..... (U.S. Funds) Foreign Membership (Includes 2 Associates)
- 1 Year    2 Years    3 Years

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ POCI MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**RENEW!** Online: [www.poci.org](http://www.poci.org) • (763) 479-2111 • Mail: POCI World HQ, PO Box 421, Long Lake, MN 55356

- Visa    MasterCard    Discover

Please provide any UPDATES to your information below:

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code (Mandatory): \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATES: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_ VEHICLES (additional): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ VEHICLES (no longer owned): \_\_\_\_\_

## Join POCI Now! NEW MEMBERSHIP Form

Pontiac  Oakland  GMC

YEAR      STYLE NAME / NUMBER      Number of CYLINDERS

YEAR      STYLE NAME / NUMBER      Number of CYLINDERS

YEAR      STYLE NAME / NUMBER      Number of CYLINDERS

### Annual Membership

- \$25.00..... Worldwide E-Membership
- \$45.00 ..... U.S. (Includes 2 Associates)
- \$74.00... Canada (Includes 2 Associates)
- \$74.00... Foreign (Includes 2 Associates)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATE MEMBER(s): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_ REFERRED BY (Name & Member #): \_\_\_\_\_

- Visa    Mastercard    Discover

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:** POCI • **Mail to:** POCI World HQ, PO Box 421, Long Lake, MN 55356



# Ladies Luncheon



The location of the July Ladies Luncheon was the Lazy Dog restaurant which was selected by this month's attending birthday gal Paula. We all had such a nice time eating, conversing with one another while staying cool on a hot summer day.

**PONTIACS**  
of CENTRAL  
CALIFORNIA





# ACTIVITIES



## POCC Breakfast Cruise



Saturday morning, July 22, found several member families of the Pontiacs of Central California gathered at the Burger King at the corner of Clovis and Herndon. No, we weren't there for a sausage biscuit sandwich or French toast sticks, a bigger and better breakfast awaited us.

We left at 8:30 am for a short cruise out to the Red Caboose Café on Academy Avenue for a stack of breakfast dreams. Bill and Cheryl Richards, Andy and Diana Hoff, Dave and Tina Valla, John Berglund, Sheryl Hammons, Tom and Lori Sandelin, Mark Lanier plus Frank and Sharon Mascola used up all of a large table at the Café.





# RED CABOOSE



Some people knew what they wanted before they arrived while others scoped out the extensive breakfast menu before ordering. We were a loud and chatty bunch who laughed and enjoyed each other's company.

Andy gave out a couple of prizes and the meal was over too soon. We said our goodbyes and made our way home before the 100 plus degree weather got started. Thanks to all who attended. 🇺🇸

Andy and Diana Hoff





# THE STEINBECK GMC

## John Steinbeck's GMC Truck

Diana and I finally took a couple of days off and travelled to the Monterey area at the end of July. As we were just starting our return trip from Monterey, I asked Diana if she wanted to take a short excursion to see the John Steinbeck Center in Salinas, mentioning that the very truck that Steinbeck used in his travels was on display there. She was good to go, so we did.



You may recall that an article appeared in Smoke Signals a few months ago that highlighted the story behind John Steinbeck's book, *Travels with Charlie*. In that account, it was mentioned that Steinbeck ordered a new 1960 GMC pickup and had it modified plus the addition of a Wolverine slide-in camper.

Steinbeck then spent several months circumnavigating the country with his companion, a dog named Charlie. Upon returning from his travels, he wrote about the trip adding stories about the people and places he encountered along the way. He mentioned Charlie quite a bit and even praised his trustworthy GMC pickup which he named Rocinate, after the name of the horse Don Quixote rode on his adventures.



The truck and camper have been restored and even feature Charlie the dog sitting in the passenger seat (replica, not a 'stuffed Charlie'). The John Steinbeck Center is a great museum plus we had the opportunity to drive down the still vintage looking Main Street of Salinas. If you have the opportunity to travel to Salinas or near it, make a stop at the Steinbeck Center, it is well worth the trip. 📍



# PONTIAC ACTIVITIES

## 2023 EVENTS



**Need Activity Info?**

**Contact: Andy Hoff**

**559-304-8836**

[andiana766@gmail.com](mailto:andiana766@gmail.com)

August 5 Coffee and Cars at BJ's  
Restaurant at the southeast corner  
of Cedar and Herndon

14 Regular Club Meeting at 7:00 pm  
at Yosemite Falls On Cedar  
between Dakota and Ashlan

**No regular club event for the  
month of August**

30 Ladies Luncheon

Sept 11 Regular Club Meeting at 7:00 pm  
at Yosemite Falls on Cedar between Dakota  
and Ashlan

23 POCC Monthly event TBD

27 Ladies Luncheon

Oct 9 Regular Club Meeting at 7:00 pm  
at Yosemite Falls On Cedar  
between Dakota and Ashlan

14 Pontiacs of Central California 30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Party From 11:00 am  
to 3:00 pm. Details to come

25 Ladies Luncheon

Pontiactivities for August 2023

Well, summer is finally here, Thanks  
to everyone who attended the  
Breakfast cruise to the Red Caboose  
Café. Good to see everyone,  
especially the Mascola's. There is a  
write up and pictures in this issue of  
Straight Arrow.

**There is no organized POCC event  
for August, so everyone can take a  
month off.** Several members will  
attend various coffee and cars events,  
some shows and other events on their  
own. If you want to invite other to  
attend with you, just use the email  
list to send out an invitation or post  
on Facebook (or ask Sheryl if she  
can help you).

We continue to work on our club  
event scheduled for September 23  
and our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
on October 14. See you there! 📌

**Check out past club activity photos and newsletters at**  
**[pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org](http://pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org)**

Find us  
on  
Facebook





**POCC'S 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**Pontiacs of Central California  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party**



**October 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Details to Come**



United States Marine Corp Reserve

# Toys for Tots Car Show

23<sup>rd</sup>  
Annual

November 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 9 to 2

River Park Shopping Center  
on El Paso at the Traffic Circle

Show is open to all vehicles;  
Classics, Stock, Rods, Customs,  
Trucks & Motorcycles. Marines will  
be present to accept your toys

Come out and  
show your support!

Entry fee is a new  
unwrapped toy  
Minimum \$15 Value  
or cash donation  
Free Coffee, Music, Awards  
Show is Rain or Shine

For more Information

Mark Lanier 559 250-8572  
markol1888@hotmail.com

Presented by

**PONTIACS**  
of CENTRAL  
CALIFORNIA



**TOYS FOR TOTS**

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# POCI CONVENTION

*The Natural State*

**52ND ANNUAL**

**POCI**

*International Convention*

**JULY 15-20**

**2024**

*Springdale, Arkansas*

Proudly hosted by the Arkansas River Chapter,  
the 53rd chapter of the  
Pontiac - Oakland Club International



# THE STEINBECK GMC



2023 POCC Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
Of the Month, held at:

Yosemite Falls Cafe  
4020 N. Cedar Fresno [Granite Park]

Dinner: 6:00PM / Meeting: 7:00PM  
[www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org](http://www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org)

