

West Michigan POCI  
908 N Kingwood Ct  
Holland, MI 49424



**PONTIAC-OAKLAND  
CLUB INTERNATIONAL**

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*west michigan  
chapter*

*the arrowhead*

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Newsletter for the Pontiac Enthusiast

March 2007

## March Meeting Minutes

Regretfully, I have to start out this month's meeting report with sad news. Former members Paul Pavelin and David Marsman both passed away recently. Our prayers go out to both the Pavelin and Marsman families.

President Doug Troost reported that he hasn't been able to contact our planned guest speaker, Rick Schaddelee (Detailing Your Pontiac) for the April meeting. If Doug can't reach Rick, we will have to resort to Plan B, whatever that is!

A sign up sheet was passed around for helping out at the May 19th Burn Show. A lot of members signed up!

Don't forget to check out our website. It is up and running again. To get to it, go to POCI's website first, and you will find a link to our site.

Our May meeting will be held at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, so plan on getting your Pontiacs out for it! We will get a chance to see the Thorwall's 1964 GTO on display there with the other musclecars!

Our guest speaker was Don Heeringa, owner of Trendway. Don shared his experiences of participating in the Pan American races held in both Mexico and Nova Scotia! Originally, the Pan Am races were held in Mexico in the early 50's. As Don mentioned, it was a way for Mexico to attract attention to itself (in a good way) and most of the car companies participated. Mercurys and Lincolns did exceptionally well back then. The race fizzled out sometime in the

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late 50's. An American, wishing to experience this race for himself and others, went to the trouble of bringing it back to life. He went one better by establishing the same race up in Nova Scotia!

Don was itching for something different to do, and when he heard about the re-emergence of this race, he decided to build a car for it. It only made sense that his car would be a '54 Mercury, the kind that won back in the 50's! Knowing that the terrain would be hard on the toughest of race cars, he built his car with the best parts available today. To keep up with the lightweight Studebakers (which are allowed to run small block Chevy engines), Don built a 351 Ford small block that produced 500 hp on 93 octane unleaded fuel. Behind the 351 is a bulletproof Gerico four-speed transmission. (You don't need the clutch to shift, just pull on the shifter and lift on the gas pedal a little!) The rear axle is a tough Ford nine-inch unit.

Don showed us video clips of both the Mexico and Nova Scotia races! In both countries, the racers were welcomed with enthusiasm and treated like rockstars! Driving the car is both exhilarating and exhausting. Don said it's easy to lose some weight participating in this race. Air temperatures during the Mexican race regularly go over 100 degrees. But in Mexico City, with a high elevation, the temps can fall below freezing at night! Talk about extremes!

There are no big money purses to win, just a plastic trophy. The reward every driver and his team earns is the simple thrill of competition and friendship of the

continued

# March Meeting Minutes

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other racers. Thanks for the great presentation Don!

See you in April!

Dan Jensen

## Tidbits of Humor

### ***Why men are Rarely Published in Dear Abby.***

Dear Abby,

I've never written to you before, but I really need your advice on what could be a crucial decision. I've suspected for some time now that my wife has been cheating on me. The usual signs...phone rings but if I answer, the caller hangs up. My wife has been going out with the girls a lot recently although when I ask their names she always says, "Just some friends from work, you don't know them."

I always stay awake to look out for her taxi coming home, but she always walks down the drive. Anyway, I have never approached the subject with my wife. I think deep down I just didn't want to know the truth, but last night she went out again and I decided to really check up on her. I decided I was going to park my Pontiac next to the garage and then hide behind it so I could get a good view of the whole street when she came home. It was at that moment, crouching behind my Pontiac, that I noticed that there was some oil leaking from the engine. Is this something I can fix myself or should I take it back to the dealer?

**Experience the Gilmore Car Museum**— an Automotive Heritage and Discovery Center located in Hickory Corners, Michigan (just north of Kalamazoo).

The car club will be traveling to Gilmore's for their May meeting so it is only fitting to let you know a little bit about this unique car museum.

Gilmore's mission "is to celebrate the entire span of automotive history through its respected collections, an active annual roster of curated exhibitions, car enthusiast shows, rallies and meets and educational outreach. The Museum's history began in the early 1960's with the private collection of 37 cars owned by Kalamazoo businessman Donald Gilmore. Today, this public Museum has evolved significantly, and with its partners, now offers nearly 200 vehicles and numerous historic objects and artifacts." (The Gilmore Brochure)

The Gilmore Museum opens on May 1 thru October 31 from 9 am– 5 pm and on Saturdays and Sundays until 6 pm. Following are some of the special events throughout their season.

- **Wednesday Night Cruise-Ins:** every Wednesday from May to October from 6 pm– 9pm. Grounds are free and all vehicles are welcome.
- **Just a sampling of the 2007 Events are as follows:**
  - CCCA Museum "Grand Experience Concours featuring Cadillac on Sunday June 3.
  - Vintage Motorcycle Show on Sunday June 10
  - Antique Tractor, Engine and Machinery Show on Fri, Sat & Sun, June 22-24. For more info go to [www.GilmoreCarMuseum.org](http://www.GilmoreCarMuseum.org)

**The 2007 Special Exhibit is the "Michigan Dream Garage"—The Ultimate Muscle Cars.**

**Don't miss the May Club Meeting on May 2.**

## Chief's Chatter

Wow, is that grass I see outside? I hesitate to say this for fear of retaliation, but I think we have put winter behind us.

It is that time of year when our automotive sap starts flowing. We can't wait to pull them beauties out of the corner and take the cover off. Finish the minor repairs and spit shine (or should I say drool shine) the paint. So... in keeping with this theme, our April speaker will tentatively be Todd Johnson. I say tentatively because of health issues, an operation will be necessary for him in the near future. Hopefully, our luck will hold and Todd, who was an automotive detail professional for years can give us those little hints he learned over the years. First to make our job easier and second to give us the edge on the competition.

Hard to believe but lightning has struck three times in the same place. Three month's and still no winner on the club lotto. With the addition of some 50/50 monies, the pot will be in excess of \$100.00. Now, we are talking some serious parts money. You must be present to win, so come to the April meeting and get educated as well as the chance to win some "fun" money.

Our sympathies and prayers are extended to the Pavelin Family on the untimely death of Paul Pavelin. Paul was member of our club for years way back to the beginning of the West Michigan Chapter. Also to another former member of our club, The David Marsman family.

Just a reminder "May's " meeting will be at **Gilmore's**. You won't want to miss seeing our very own newsletter editor's car there. Wendell Miller graciously volunteered to organize and plan the trip from Grand Rapids to Hickory Corners. So stay tuned for more details to come.

May 19 is the Burn Survivor car show. Our club has helped in the past and will do so again this year. Ten people (we have your name and number) have already volunteered to help. What is it they say, 'many hands make the job lite' or something like that. So if you want to help out for a great cause, sign up at the April meeting.

See you at Brann's for the meeting- got to go- the bondo is getting hard on my car.

Doug

## Join the Tradition!!

### Burn Survivor Benefit Car

**Saturday, May 19th, 2007**

**9AM-3PM**

**Fifth Third Ball Park**

**Comstock Park, MI**

**Auction @ 10am**

**Perrin MotorSports Lil Miss Dangerous**

**Food**

**Kids Activities**

**Local Fire Depts**

**Antique Fire Trucks**

**\$10.00 Registration Fee for Show Cars**

**\$1.00 per spectator (or \$5.00 per carload!)**

**Proceeds to benefit Burn Survivors Initiatives  
through The Phoenix Society and Spectrum  
Health**

**Welcome !!**

We would like to extend a warm welcome  
to a new Club Member who joined in  
March: Ken Harper from Holland!

### ***With Sympathy***

We want to extend out sympathy, thoughts, and prayers to Lynn Pavelin and family at the passing of Lynn's husband, Paul, who had been a past president of the WMPOCI. Personal notes of condolences can be sent to:

Lynn Pavelin  
2534 Apple Leaf Court NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

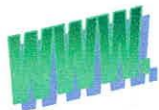
We would also like to extend our condolences, thoughts, and prayers to Lena Marsman and family at the passing of her husband David Marsman. Personal notes of sympathy can be sent to:

Lena Marsman  
5806 Pinetree  
Kentwood, MI 49508

### ***Attendance Raffle***

The 50/50 Raffle was won by Ken Harper. Congratulations! \$31.00 was added to the Attendance Raffle for a grand total of \$92. The member whose name was chosen to win this amount was Brian Bronkema! However, he was not present at the meeting, so the money will keep on rolling over. Who will be present at our next meeting and win the Attendance Raffle??

The West Michigan Chapter of the Pontiac Oakland Club International has its website up and working again. To access our site, go to [www.poci.org](http://www.poci.org) and simply click on the word 'links'. This will bring you to a list of POCI chapters. Click on our site.



# Upcoming Club Events

**May or June:** Dust Off Cruise. Date is not known at this time.

**June 2 & 3:** Midland Antique Car Show along with a flower/art show. Five double non-smoking rooms have been reserved in Doug Kamphuis' name. If you are attending, you need to put the room in your name. Cost is \$83.00 per night at the Fairview Inn in Midland. Phone: 989-631-0070. We didn't have a very good showing last year. Let's try to make up for it this year.

**July 10-14:** National POCI Convention, Tulsa, OK

**August 3:** Car Show at Elhart Pontiac in Holland. Volunteers are needed. This is our only club fundraiser.

### ***2007 West Michigan POCI Meeting Schedule for May, June, & July***

**May 2**.....Cruise to Gilmore's Car Museum: the club meeting held at Gilmore's.

**June 6**.....Potluck Picnic at Haggar Park (no desserts please). We will follow the leader for our dessert portion of the potluck, ending at an ice cream place.

**July 4**.....No Meeting.

# THE ARROWHEAD

## The Preamble

The West Michigan Chapter of the Pontiac-Oakland Club International is dedicated to the ownership and preservation of Pontiacs, all models and years. It is the goal of the chapter to encourage and unite area Pontiac enthusiasts in Chapter sponsored activities and events. The Arrowhead serves as one of the tools to which the Club can fulfill its goals as well as provide information and services to its members.

## Club Officers

President	Doug Troost	616-399-1423
Vice President	Robert DeBoer	616-538-6712
Treasurer	Terri Miller	616-875-8069
Secretary	Dan Jensen	517-647-2474
Arrowhead Editors	Greg & Melanie Thorwall	616-399-4701

**Wednesday April 4, 2007 @ 7:30 PM**

Regular Club Meeting will be at Brann's on Leonard. Our April speaker will be Todd Johnson. Todd will give us a talk on how to finish the minor repairs and spit shine the paint on our cars to make them ready for the upcoming car season. See you all on April 4!!!



## Membership Info

**Chapter Dues** are to be paid January 1st  
\$25.00 payable to WMPOCI  
Please give to Terri Miller at the meeting, or mail them to:  
Terri Miller 8830 Taylor St. Zeeland, MI 49464

**National Dues** are YOUR responsibility  
You must be a member of the National POCI  
to be a member of the West Michigan POCI.  
Log onto [www.poci.org](http://www.poci.org) for more information or to register.

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Pontiac Owned \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Style \_\_\_\_\_ Motor \_\_\_\_\_

National POCI # (must have) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

\$25.00 Payable to WMPOCI