

West Michigan POCI  
4101 Byron Rd  
Hudsonville MI 49426



**PONTIAC-OAKLAND  
CLUB INTERNATIONAL**

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**WEST MICHIGAN  
CHAPTER**

# **THE ARROWHEAD**

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Newsletter for the Pontiac Enthusiast

April 2011

## CAR SHOW OPPORTUNITY

David's House where we were given a tour about a year ago is having a car show/pig roast May 14th. This is strictly an entertainment venue for the residents of David's House. The show will be from 10 - 2 at David's House #3 which is on Banner Dr. in Wyoming. (Watch the May newsletter for more info or changes)

## POCI ELECTIONS

There are six candidates running unopposed this year in the US Divisions. We still urge you to vote, especially if you belong to a POCI chapter. Chapters can win \$200 from POCI for having the highest percentage of chapter members voting in the election. Your vote counts!!

**Don't forget our Saturday, May 7th Dust Off!!** We have reserved the W.K. Kellogg Manor House for our club to tour and have a bite of lunch. We would like to get a head count, so if you can make it please RSVP to either Terri Miller (616-875-8069) or to Elaine at (616-896-1294). The Manor House requests that we have at least 20 participants for a tour. The May newsletter should have departure time and meeting location and/or directions. If you have any questions you can contact Terri.

## 2011 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

**April:** Famous Daves

**May 7, Sat.** - Dust Off - W.K. Kellogg Manor House - tour and lunch. No Tuesday meeting. More info later

**June:** Fricano's on Alpine. Tues. night cruise in meeting.

**July:** NO Meeting (convention)

**Aug:** Cruise to Gilmore Museum also Elhart Car Show

**Sept:** Holland State Park - Picnic Meeting also Dan's Drags later in the month

**Oct:**

**Nov:** Valve Cover Races

**Dec:** Christmas Party

You can now check out our WMPOCI chapter on [Facebook](#).



## 1994 Firebird Formula LT4 Firehawk

By Dan Jensen

While attending the 2009 TA Nationals in Dayton, OH, I was on the lookout for any year Firebird for sale that suited my fancy. I didn't know specifically what I wanted, but I'd know it when I'd see it. Eventually I ran into Jim Mattison and Dave Tiura, as I always do at the TA Nats. I mentioned my quest to them and immediately Dave said he brought down a car to sell. It was a red 1994 Firebird Formula with a six speed manual transmission. I wasn't really excited about it at first because I already had a 1995 Formula six speed I bought from Jim back in 1996. Dave and Jim went on to explain that this wasn't any ordinary 1994 Formula. This car was the SLP development /PR vehicle for the 1997 Firehawk LT4 program. Dave had a letter from Pontiac showing that this Formula (by VIN) was assigned to Pontiac Division Headquarters and Pontiac Public Relations Department. "On 12/23/93, the car was released to SLP Engineering, Inc. for the purpose of vehicle development for their Firehawk program." The car was eventually sold to SLP on 5/10/93.

Later, "Pontiac Engineering Department records show that a pilot LT4 engine assembly and corresponding engine control module was released to SLP for installation in this vehicle and subsequent usage as a press and development vehicle." For those of you who don't know, the LT4 (350 small block Chevy) engines were only installed in 1996 six-speed Grand Sport and Collector's Edition Corvettes. These engines were rated at 330 hp and were recognized by their red powder-coated high-performance intake manifold. The main differences between the Corvette LT4 engine and the Formula's standard LT1 engine (275 hp) are the LT4's special high-flow aluminum heads, bigger cam, full roller rocker arms, and the afore-mentioned intake manifold.

SLP ended up making 106 Camaro SS LT4s, followed with only 29 LT4 Firehawks. After SLP's LT4 program was over, Dave was able to buy the development Formula back from them. Dave then improved the car by upgrading the ignition with an MSD distributor and coil, a Meziere electric water pump, Edelbrock 52mm throttle body, 1998 F-car front brake calipers, 1998 F-car exhaust system, and a Torsen differential with aluminum inspection cover. You may wonder why Dave was in the position to buy such a car. Well, Dave worked for Pontiac in the '80s, '90s, and '00s in the experimental and development garages, working closely with SLP. He had a hand with this car from beginning to end.

of which 1800 are in production, and the rest are engineers. The future looks bright for Gentex. They expect business to double in the future, and could add up to 500 more people to the payroll!

Dan showed us some of the inside rear view mirrors that make for some of the fancier cars and trucks. These mirrors not only auto dim, show you the outside temperature, and the direction you're heading in, but also have LCD screens for back up cameras (up to three for rear and both sides). Plus they communicate with the outside mirrors for dimming purposes. Speaking of outside mirrors, they are developing some that have built in spotter mirrors, and ones that angle at the far end to increase your field of vision behind you, all while maintaining a flat surface.

Gentex is also using the auto tinting technology for windows in the new Boeing 787 airplane. With a flip of a switch, the glass goes from clear to almost opaque to cut the glare from the sun! They also see this technology being used in buildings and homes!

There was a lot more that Dan shared with us. It was a fascinating presentation; one that we all could relate to. Thanks Dan for taking the time to talk to us about Gentex and their products!

The 50/50 raffle prize of \$27 was won by Terri and Wendell Miller! Congrats guys. The Attendance Drawing was up to \$85 and would have been won by Bart and Lorrie Bales, if they would have been there. Since they weren't, the kitty grows for next month. That meeting will be on April 5<sup>th</sup> and I hope to see you there!

Dan Jensen



## March Meeting Minutes

It's hard to believe that our last meeting was January 4<sup>th</sup>. As most of you know, an executive decision was made at that meeting to skip the February meeting since many of the "regulars" were going to be vacationing in warmer climates to the south. It ended up being a great decision since Michigan experienced a huge blizzard the day before. It took a couple days for us to dig out from that one, so most of us wouldn't have dared to venture out! Conditions for our March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at Famous Dave's were entirely different with sunny skies, temps near 40, and the snow melting! Yea!

President Ron VanZytveld started the meeting off going over Terri Miller's treasurer's report, which showed we are in good financial shape. Ron went on to thank Judy Hirdes for setting up our club's Facebook page. You can find it under "West Michigan POCI", or under "POCI", if I heard all the talk about it correctly. Ron also put the word out that we need a volunteer to head up organizing our Christmas Party. Sayfee's Restaurant, where we had our last two parties, went out of business. (It was mentioned by a few of our members, our club killed another restaurant!)

Elaine needs our members to write articles about their Pontiacs and submit them to her for the newsletter. It would be nice to read more about our member's cars. They always have fascinating histories.

Our guest speaker was Dan Suman from Gentex Corporation in Zeeland, MI. Gentex started out in the fire protection business, which they still do, but is a small part of their product now. We all know Gentex for their production of vehicle rear view mirrors, both inside and out. My apologies if I messed up on some of the details Dan was giving us, but I believe he said that Gentex started in the mirror business in 1984, when he started working there. Since then, Gentex has grown in sales to over \$800 million, employs 3000 people,

Now you could say my interest in the car was piqued. Looking at the Formula on Jim's open car trailer, it was immediately apparent that the car was somewhat beat up, but it ran and sounded good. I wanted to test drive the Formula and since it was Saturday, we decided to take the car to the Firebird-only cruise-in just north in downtown Tipp City, which is held in conjunction with the TA Nats. The car drove and sounded better than it looked, and I was hooked. I decided to buy the car and Dave and I settle on a price fair to both of us. Despite the car's tattered appearance, it got a lot of attention at the cruise-in. Once people found out that it was sold, many regretted dragging their feet to talk to Dave. I even got some offers to buy it from me there!

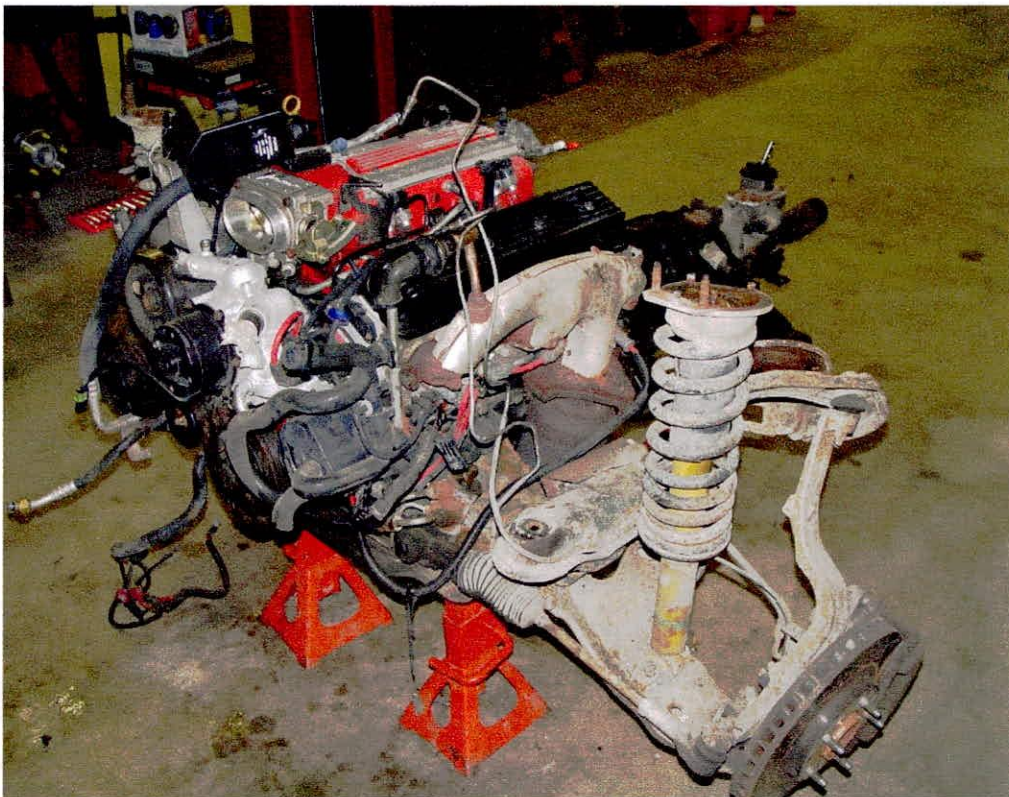
The plans were to have Jim Mattison haul it back to Michigan on his trailer, but he ended up buying a '98 1LE Formula himself, so he needed his trailer. Fortunately, my brother Dennis, and his son Corbin, went down with me to the TA Nats. I was hauling Dennis' '73 Firebird. Since the '94 Formula ran so good, we decided to have Dennis and Corbin drive it back home, while I followed with my truck and trailer. Fortunately, the trip went smoothly, and the Formula got over 27 mpg's with the air conditioning on!

My immediate plans were to get the car repainted, but the engine developed an intermittent ticking sound. I couldn't pin it down so I decided to pull the engine. Since these cars are so different from our old Pontiacs, I enlisted the services of Dave to help me "drop the engine out" of the car. Good thing I have a lift and had Dave there. He knows these cars like the back of his hand so I could barely keep up with him. Long story short, I found that one of the lobes on the camshaft was wearing down and it appeared that the roller wheel on the corresponding lifter was degrading too. This is unheard of with a roller cam. I rebuilt the engine with 20-over pistons, and a bit larger camshaft. This spring, Dave and I will re-unite the engine with the car, and the repaint will have to wait until 2012. Until then, I hope to have some fun with the car and drive it back to the TA Nats!

Pictures on the following page.....

**Thanks Dan for sharing your car with us!!**





## **CHIEF'S CHATTER**

Spring is in the air. This last weekend was sunny and warm until the rain came in on Sunday, but it won't be long until we can get our rides out again and cruise! Make sure to give your car a good once over. Checking things can help you enjoy a safe summer.

We could really use some help with the club activities this year. Please consider helping with the car show in August or volunteering to head up the Christmas Party. Many hands make light work. We can always use help with Dan's Pure Stock Muscle Car Drags as well. It's a great way to have fun, be around cars, and make some money for the club.

Don't forget to mail in the ballot in your last issue of Smoke Signals. The chapter that sends in the highest percentage of votes could win \$200. It's just that easy.

We have a special activity planned for our April meeting at Famous Dave's. Don't miss it!

Ron



# 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	Ron VanZytveld	616-896-1294
Vice President	Tom Ensing	616-826-6554
Treasurer	Terri Miller	616-875-8069
Secretary	Dan Jensen	517-647-2474
Arrowhead Editor	ElaineVanZytveld	616-896-1294

**APRIL 5TH MEETING**

**@ FAMOUS DAVE'S**

**THE MEETING WILL START ABOUT 7:30 BUT**

**FEEL FREE TO COME EARLIER AND HAVE A**

**BITE TO EAT WITH OTHER CLUB MEMBERS**

**(many arrive between 6:00 and 6:30)**

## 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.

## WMPOCI 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