

The Arrowhead

West Michigan Chapter



September 2020

Chief's Chatter

Doug Troost-WMPOCI President

Thank you to all those that turned out to view the VerHage Museum. The weather was beautiful and we saw some pretty cool cars. If you get a chance stop by with a Thank You or send a card of thanks, I'm sure Norm VerHage would appreciate that.

It was so good to have a meeting again. I have missed the fellowship and sharing of information alot. Even with the virus we are pressing forward to make things happen for our club.

September 1, 2020 meeting is at the Holland State Park(the beach) Hambergs and Hot dogs will be provided by the club. We need you to bring a dish to share, along with your own silverware, plates and beverage. We will be giving the amount collected from members to Hospice.(thanks to Doug Kamphuis for the motion to do this on our own as the club is not having the car show).

Our October 6, 2020 meeting is a do not miss. Glenn Beavis will be showing a movie on the launch of the 1970 PONTIAC model. The movie was commissioned by John DeLorean and Glenn's dad was part of the filming crew. We have a New location for the October meeting we will be checking out Gary Genzink Garage in Graafschap along with watching the movie. (look for address within this newsletter).

Save the best for last they always say. The Pure Stock Drags are on. Save the weekend and come out and support Dan. Volunteers are appreciated by Dan and his staff. If you have never been there you are missing out on a great time, beautiful cars, great racing and good fellowship. September 17-19 save the date.

If you missed the last meeting, we are having a color tour, October 9 & 10. This will be an overnigher with a mystery destination. Stay Turned for more details.

See you at The Beach,

Doug

MEMBER'S SHARE

Seventy-five years ago a boy was born with destiny of greatness. Well, that didn't happen so I'll tell you the other story.

Let's fast forward sixteen years to the time I received my green card (green for go). Our household had two cars, dad's 1954 Oldsmobile super 88 (no Tom touchy) and mother's 1950 Pontiac sedan six banger stick shift. This sounds like a commie plot to me but I bought into it anyway. I could drive the Pontiac to Davenport college to take a typing course (the quick red fox jumped over –you know the drill). After awhile I was allowed to drive the car for pleasure, so I picked up some friends and went to terrorize some girls. Arriving at their house, let's make some noise, rev her up and make that tiger roar. Then like that the tiger stopped roaring! One of my friends was mechanically minded and together we convinced my folks that beyond a little oil on the garage floor we couldn't do much harm. Dropping the oil pan and there it was, a pin on the distributor gear had sheared off. A piece of wire and the tiger can roar again, but maybe I should only make her purr from now on.

My parents didn't trust the Pontiac any more so it became a Volkswagon Carman-gia. "Cool". A neat off-road vehicle for around my friend's farm. At the farm the question is... why did the chicken cross the road? The answer is... to get run over by a Carman-gia. My dad's question was... how did all those white feathers get into the engine compartment? My answer was: my friends probably pulled a prank on me.

By this time I am now working, painting houses and my brother-in-law hired me at Muir's Photo Lab and also after school delivering photos to drugstores. While at Muir's Photo my brother-in-law had a fall-out with his friend, so he introduced me to his x-friend's girl friend who also worked at Muir's Photo. Her name was Sandra, who in the future became my wife.

To save their own cars my parents decided it was time for me to buy my own car. A trip down South Division and I was a proud owner of a 1955 Chevrolet, black with white shag carpet and pom-pom balls in the back window. Popularity is at a premium at school with a car, especially with a back seat that could hide your hard cider and your C. R. Sunday bathing suits.

In the first part of my marriage the funds were low so most autos were \$500/5,000 mile cars. But in 1969 the funds were more abundant, so off to 28th street to buy the first NEW car.

First stop at a Chevrolet dealer, looking down the lot, noticed missing chrome, miss aligned panels, missing parts! Salesman said don't worry, we prep the cars before delivery (not very impressive)! So off to Orson E. Coe. Hey! These car's were all fit and trim, money down and I walked away with a Lemans, gold color with parchment top and interior. At 125,000 miles I had only one problem, a nylon timing gear. I was very pleased with it but the only scary concern was don't try to stop it going over 65 mph.

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Monthly meeting Minutes

August 4, 2020

Our meeting was held at the VerHage Motor Collection in Holland. We had beautiful sunny weather, surprisingly on the cool side! Norm VerHage explained how his father, Lloyd, started the collection way back in 1969. I saw cars, all Chrysler products, from the 30s, 50s, 60s, and 70s. The VerHage's owned the Chrysler/Plymouth dealership in Holland for decades, thus explaining their preference for all things Mopar. Thanks to Norm for a great tour.

We had a new member attend the meeting. Ralph found out about us in an unusual way. On our spring dust off cruise, Ralph was out driving his '70 GTO, and happened to cross paths with our Pontiacs. We were heading to a Lake Michigan beach, and he followed us. Talking to several WMPOCI members in the parking lot, he decided to join our club. Ralph bought his GTO brand new in Florida, while he was serving in the Navy. Welcome to the club Ralph!

We had a brief business meeting after our tour. President Doug Troost read us Brian Martinie's Treasurer's Report. We had income from dues, and no expenses.

Our August meeting is normally for our Car Show at the Elhart Campus, but with Covid-19, no show this year. We normally give Hospice of Holland a nice check from proceeds from the show, but this year we can't. So a motion was passed for WMPOCI members to individually make a donation, if they wish. You can send a check to Brian Martinie, but note that it is for Hospice on the remarks line.

I passed around a volunteer sign up sheet for the September 18&19 Pure Stock Drags at the Mid-Michigan Motorplex. At this point in time, we are still a go. Thank you to those who signed up to help out at the race. We have a lot of fun. It's not just work!

Our September meeting will be at Holland State Park. Please bring a dish to pass. The club will supply the meats and buns.

For our October meeting, our guest speaker will show his is rare John DeLorean movie. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the meeting location and time.

Our November meeting will be held on the 10th, a week after the Presidential Elections. We will meet at the VanZytveld's family "cave" for our own officer elections and valve cover races.

No update on our Fall Cruise. We will be heading up north, and it will be an overnigher.

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MEMBER SHARE Cont'd

In 1979 the west Michigan Pontiac dealers special ordered 200 white and black Lemans sport classics, and a white one was mine. In those years the designers were sleeping, but with a bird on the hood, pin striping, sport dressing, rally wheels, etc. these looked pretty cool.

Yikes! What's this... a recall notice, "replace rear axle mounting bolts". Sounds simple, so I had it done. One night a van ran a stop sign and hit the front fender area. Being a uni-body construction there wasn't a piece of sheet metal not wrinkled. Can you say: "totaled"!! So off to Elhart Pontiac to buy a 1981 Lemans color maroon with a landau top. Six months later another recall letter, replace the rear axle mounting bolts! Is there a corporate problem here? After a few years the 1981 wasn't sporty enough for Sandy so it was replaced with a 1981 "Knight Rider" firebird.

So we learn from history right? When my son Todd got his license, he was driving his own car, a 1974 Pontiac Ventura. This car needed some work so together we replaced quarter panels, repaired the rust, and repainted. That was interesting, so I searched for my own project car, a 1967 GTO black Earl Schaib paint job and gold interior. Getting ready for a car show my "darling little twin grand-daughters' who were sitting in the car found the gear shift.(Now you know why there is more safety features now days.) The GTO rolled down the driveway and into my mailbox. This called for a visit to Bob Arnoldink's body shop for a professional paint job. At that time the retired previous owner would spend a few hours a day and block sand the car. After that I began receiving trophies.

To be continued.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 1, 6 PM
Meet at Holland State Park

**Meat, buns and fixings will be provided.
Please bring a dish to share,
your own table service, and beverage.**

**We will be along the channel or
along the north side of the parking lot
East of the Pavilion.**



2020 CLUB EVENTS

- September 1 Picnic at Holland State Park
- October 6 Meeting at Gary Genzink's Barn
5985 146th Ave. Holland, MI (East of Graafschap)
Your GPS should get you there. Bring a chair
- October 9-10 Fall Cruise—Charlevoix/Petoskey
- November 10 Valve Cover Races & Election of officers
Contact Doug Troost for specs/instructions for Valve Cover Car
NOTE: Change of date because of Election
- December Christmas Dinner—Beechwood Inn, Holland

CRUISE INS

EVERY TUESDAY—FRICANOS in Comstock Park 4—10 PM
5808 Alpine Ave NW Through September 15
<https://www.fricanospizzaalpine.com/calendar/cruisenight>

EVERY THURSDAY through SEPTEMBER 24 4:30—8 PM
Das Essenhaus, 240 US 20, Middlebury, IN (weather permitting)

AREA EVENTS

- September 17-19** Pure Stock Muscle Car Drags—Stanton, MI
Mid-Michigan Motorplex
- September 19** 11 AM—3 PM Spring Valley Community Church
5947 Lake Michigan Dr., Allendale, MI
Registration 9:30-11. Awards 2:30 PM
Food trucks, prizes, dash plaques, tool boxes.
Proceeds to Veterans, AutoBody Experts
- Thurs., September 24** 5-8 PM Ver Hage All Makes Car Show
343 E. 8th Street., Holland

Meeting Minutes Cont'd.

Our Christmas Party will be held at the Beachwood Inn. The cost is \$23.50 per person, and that included the tip and tax.

The 50/50 drawing was won by the Hirdes'. Congratulations Cary and Judy!

The Laarman's name was pulled for the attendance drawing, but Gary and Pam were not present. So the pot grows for September.

Hope to see everyone at the beach!

Dan Jensen

Care Corner

We intend to include announcements whenever we learn of a serious illness, accident, surgery, or death of a close relative of one of our members. Please inform a Board Member if you have an item to share.

Check out our latest events and activities on our website

www.wmpontiac.com.

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.

Club Officers

President	Doug Troost	616-403-4416
Vice President	Scott Van Tamelen	616-450-8450
Treasurer	Brian Martinie	616-836-6040
Secretary	Dan Jensen	517-896-0398
Arrowhead Editor	Judy Hirdes	616-772-5494

Membership Info

Chapter Dues are to be paid January 1st

\$25.00 payable to WMPOCI

Please give to Brian Martinie at the meeting, or mail them to:

West Michigan Pontiac Club

430 E 8th St, PMB 157

Holland, MI. 49423

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 for more information or to register

WMPOCI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Full Member (Chapter & POCI) _____

If full member include your POCI# _____

Non POCI member (Chapter only) _____

Pontiac Owned _____

Year _____ Model _____

Style _____ Motor _____

National POCI # (must have) _____

Birthday _____ Spouse's Birthday _____

Anniversary _____

\$25.00 Payable to West Michigan Pontiac Club

West Michigan POCI
1586 Ridgecrest Dr.
Zeeland, MI 49464