

Big Chief's Corner

ROAD TRIP!!! How About A Poncho Power Tour?

I had a call from James Matchett who was letting me know about the Hot Rod Power Tour. I can't go, with trips to Pontiac Southern Nationals and Trans Am Nationals eating up all my vacation for the year. It did, however, plant a seed.

For those of you who might have been living in a cave the past few years, the Power Tour is a cross country trip that give enthusiasts the opportunity to caravan together in a marathon driving extravaganza. Stops usually feature some type of entertainment or auto related seminar.

This started me thinking. How hard would it be to do a Poncho Power Tour? Something for all our club members to do that would involve a weekend drive through some of the more scenic areas of the state?

My thought was to leave from Little Rock on I-40 and drive up to Altus. We could stop there, tour one of the local wineries and have lunch. Not too much wine, we still have more driving.

From there we could proceed up Arkansas highway 23 to Eureka Springs to spend the night. This route would take us through the Boston mountains. That should make for a fun drive.

We could take our time leaving Eureka the next morning, giving everyone time to browse in the shops if they want. From there we could cruise down highway 62 to Harrison where we could link up with highway 7, one of the most scenic drives in Arkansas. We could go south until we hit I-40 at Russellville. Lunch there would be a chance to say farewells before we all head home.

An alternate route could take us to Altus again but on this version we would turn south after lunch, heading down highway 23 until it intersects with Highway 10. From there we could drive east and link up with highway 7 for a meandering drive through the Quachita National Forest. This would drop us in Hot Springs for the night.

Hot Springs has ample opportunity for browsing shops, visiting museums and good restaurants for dining. We could then make the short trip back to Little Rock and have a late lunch in the River Market district before splitting up.

I think you get the idea. Regardless of the route, I think it would be great fun for our club to make a weekend trek.

I also think it would be a great idea to invite every other car club we can find to join us. As you know, we have many members who are active in more than one club. This would be a prime opportunity for us to gain statewide exposure and, possibly, pick up some new members.

I'm very interested in hearing feedback from club members regarding this idea. Please feel free to call me at 501-803-9219, email me at critter@arkansaspontiacs.org You can also bring your comments to our next meeting at the clubhouse in west Little Rock. I'm looking forward to it.

The March meeting was an open air event. Club members (left to right) Tammy Ritter, Mary Ann Ray, Bruce Rhoads and James Matchett look at photos from last months race outing at the Centerville Dragway. Many of these photos have been posted to the web site at www.arkansaspontiacs.org and are also being added to the club scrapbook.



Monthly Cruise-In Planned

The March meeting was a short, open air affair. The decision was made to hold the meeting at the Maumelle Sonic drive in, prior to a cruise in/poker run sponsored by the club.

Chris Ritter, president, handed out materials for members to use for seeking sponsors and new members. A flyer for the upcoming Pontiac Southern Nationals was also attached. He asked that all members start seeking out possible sponsors and new members and offered to provide additional copies for those who might need them.

Ritter then reported that he had contacted the Maumelle city government regarding using Lake Willastien for the fall car show. He contacted Parks Director Steve Ibbotson who requested a written notification regarding the details of the planned event. Ritter has provided that written notification.

Ibbotson mentioned that the City of Maumelle is planning some type of fall festival and wondered if the APA might be interested in doing the car show in conjunction with that event. Ritter said that he would be happy to explore that with them.

A report was delivered by Mary Ann Ray regarding possible sources for shirts. Brian Ray

had intended to deliver the information but his call up for armed services duty kept him from attending. The club members decided that more time and research were needed so any action on this was tabled until the next meeting.

Ritter then reminded members that April 6th was the date for the NASCAR exhibit at Sherwood Pontiac. The club will be displaying cars that day, beginning at 11:00am. A show of hands revealed that an 10-12 cars would be available. Ritter will contact Carl Reed at Sherwood to let him know.

Ritter delivered a quick report on how the club race day went at the Centerville Dragway. Some good natured ribbing followed.

Ritter then brought up the subject of cruise ins and how often the group wanted to host one. The consensus was that a monthly cruise during good weather was desired. Next month's meeting will be at the club house since the weather is usually bad in April. May's meeting will be at the Maumelle Sonic drive in. Meetings will still be held on the third Sunday of the month at 1:00pm, prior to the cruise in at the Sonic. Cruise ins will be open to the public and start at 2:00pm.

Wet Weather Doesn't stop the fun



The phone calls were coming in fast and furious Sunday morning. Was the cruise-in and poker run still a go or would we call it because of the weather?

It hadn't rained all morning in Maumelle. The weather had been exactly the same the day before. It was gloomy and cloudy but the rain hadn't come until late in the evening on Saturday. I decided to commit. It was on.

In retrospect, it was the best decision that could have been made. We had excellent participation based on the weather. All the slots at the Maumelle Sonic were filled with classic cars, roadsters and late model customs.

The rain held off until around 2:00pm, our official start time. It didn't seem to dampen the spirits of

Wet - continued from 1

those attending the event. People lined the covered walkways next to the drive in stalls, visiting and looking at the display of cars.

There were 9 participants in our poker run. Those brave souls plowed through the driving rain to make stops and gather their cards. Our winner, Steven Barnhart, was attending with the Custom Designz car club where he is the Vice-President of the truck division. That added \$22.50 to the club coffers.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to the volunteers from our club who worked the stops, in the driving rain, handing out the cards. Kudos to Laura and Bryan Blocker, Lynn and Archie Williams, Bruce Rhoads and Tammy Ritter.

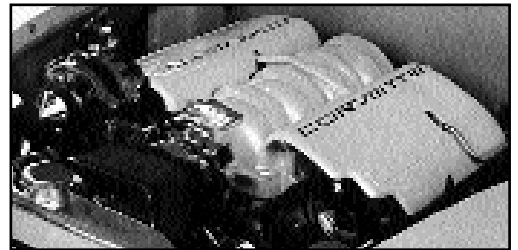
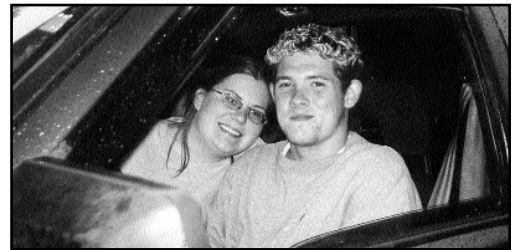
The best news to come from this event was the addition of five new members and a sponsor. Frankie Rider of The Trans Am

GTA Source Page (www.gtasourcepage.com) signed up as our very first sponsor at the Gold Sponsor level.

We hope that, if you missed this one, you'll be able to join us for the next cruise-in. It will be on Sunday, May 19 at the Maumelle Sonic. A club meeting will take place there at 1:00pm, prior to the cruise-in which will start at 2:00pm.



Street rods (above) joined the Pontiacs in filling the bays (below). David Templeton (above, right) visits with new member John Ramey regarding Trans Ams.



Several local car clubs joined in the fun. Becca Gilliam and Steven Barnhart (above, top) from the Custom Designz club were the winners in the poker run. LS1 power motivates this street rod (above).

Mark Your Calendar

April 21st

**Regular Meeting - Arkansas Pontiac Association
1:00 PM
Westland Apartment Complex**

April 6th

**NASCAR Display - Club Event - We need for club members to bring their cars out for display
All Day -Sherwood Pontiac**

April 13th

**North East Arkansas Street Rod Association
Open Auto Show
Craighead Forest Park - Pavilion #3 & #4
Jonesboro, AR
Roy Coble 870-932-6110
rojocoble@cox-internet.com**

Entry fee is \$15.00. Registration is from 8am - 12pm.

June 1st

**3rd Annual CareLink Morot Show
Clear Channel Metroplex Expo Hall
Cars by invitation only but the exhibit will be open to the public for viewing.
Fee for viewing is \$5.00, children under 10, free.
Benefits the Care Link Meals On Wheels program.**

**Friday, May 31st thru Sunday, June 2nd
Pontiac Southern Nationals
Dallas Area Pontiac Association
www.pontiacsouthernationals.com
972-618-0700**

SALE OR TRADE

CARS..... PARTS.....

1972 LeMans. Over \$10,000 invested but will sacrifice for \$7,500. Dealer paperwork comes with it. Very nice car. Call Shane Shelton at fbodman@iwon.com or call 501-315-3881.

PARTS.....

455 short block. 1973 date code. Standard bore, standard crank. Slight ridge on top of cylinder. Includes oil pan and damaged windage tray. \$425.00 Chris Ritter - 501-803-9219

Header panel for 1974 Trans Am. Refinished and ready for final prep work/paint. \$125.00, OBO. Chris Ritter - 501-803-9219

1969 GTO standard differential. Code WC. 2.78 gears. Solid housing with good 28 spline axles. \$100.00. Call Bryan Blocker at 501-529-8020.

Set of 7M5 and 4X, 455 heads. \$50 for each pair. Call Bryan Blocker at 501-529-8020.

Complete set of five, 15X7 rally wheels off a 1977 Grand Prix. Trim rings and center caps included. \$100.00. Contact Claudio Garcia at 501-843-0731

1971 date code, #96 heads. Good condition. \$200.00. Bryan Blocker - 501-529-8020

Edelbrock Torker II aluminum intake. Barely used. Unported but water crossover has been separated. \$180.00 Bryan Blocker - 501-529-8020

Full length windage tray. \$40.00 Bryan Blocker - 501-529-8020

Bare subframe for first generation F-body. Good condition. \$150.00 Bryan Blocker - 501-529-8020

YOUR ADS WANTED!

If you are a member of the Arkansas Pontiac Association and have cars or parts to trade or sell, let an officer know. These ads are a service to our members.