

Big Chief's Corner

Busy Time

Pontiac events keep this Chief running hard

First, I'd like to apologize for being tardy with this newsletter. I make every effort to supply these on a monthly basis but the past few weeks have been extremely busy.

I'm proud to report that the APA is making a name for itself out in the Pontiac community. I've been out at two national events and our local gatherings and the APA was well received everywhere I went.

The first stop was our picnic and cruise in at the Sonic drive in. We had approximately 20 members drop in for the food and meeting and over 25 cars attended the cruise in.

Everyone commented on how they enjoyed the monthly cruise in. We will continue those through the summer and fall, weather permitting.

The next stop was a trip by myself and VP, Bryan Blocker to the Jim Butler Performance Pontiac Nationals in Leoma, TN. Our club banner was proudly displayed in the pits where my car was. Pontiac racers from all over the U.S. now know that the APA is here!

Visits from Paul Zazarine of Pontiac Enthusiast magazine and Pete McCarthy, noted Pontiac guru, gave me the opportunity to talk up the club. Paul was especially supportive, having started a few car clubs of his own. He asked to be put on our mailing list for the newsletter so he could stay abreast of what we are doing.

The last stop was Pontiac Southern Nationals in Dallas. There were five cars from APA at the show and I'll let you read the details the other story here in the newsletter. I'll sum it up by saying we won three awards in the show and another of those cars was in the High Performance Pontiac shootout and will be in an upcoming issue.

So, you can see why I've been slow getting this newsletter to you. I've covered a lot of ground in the past few weeks (and worn out one back tire on the truck I tow my car trailer with). One thing is for sure. Pontiac people all over the country are starting to realize there's a new group in Arkansas that loves Pontiacs.



Picnic and Planning Meet

God graced us with a beautiful day for meeting, eating and doing some business at the May meeting.

Club members gathered at the Lake Willestein park in Maumelle to enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs beneath the pine trees. While waiting on the food, members had the opportunity to relax and visit for a while. A local police officer even stopped in to admire Wayne Major's fine 1967 GTO.

After the food, President Chris Ritter opened the meeting. A report from Treasurer Dusty Palmer showed that we now have \$958.55 in the bank. A special thanks went to Velma Spradlin who had lined up two additional sponsors for the group.

Brian and Mary Ann Ray delivered a report on the status of shirts for the club members. They expected to deliver the shirts to Fancy Stitches for embroidery work sometime during the week of the May 20th. Those who had not paid for shirts yet were asked to get their money in.

The car show was next on the list. Volunteers for judging the show were accepted. Bruce Rhoads, Jeff Schwark and James Matchett will be taking care of the judging duties.

Ritter reported that he still does not have confirmation from Maumelle for use of the park.

He will attempt to have that by the next meeting or move on to finding a new location. He also offered some suggestions for classes but agreed to re-examine them after receiving suggestions from the group.

Brian Ray and Velma Spradlin offered information regarding the trophies and dash plaques for the show. Both pointed out that prices will be based on volume. Until classes are decided the number of trophies needed won't be available so that process is on hold.

Jeff Schwark will be contacting Ames and Performance years for possible goodie bag items. Ritter will contact Year One for the bags.

Veronica Palmer has offered to take charge of games for children who might be coming to the event. Velma Spradlin has lined up a D.J. for entertainment.

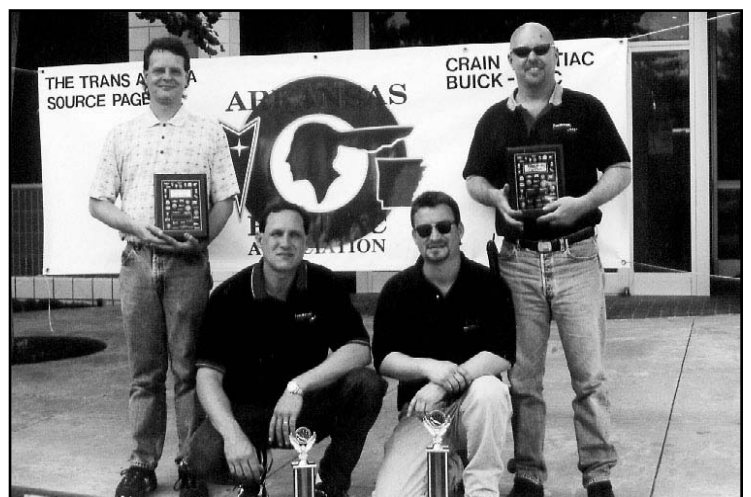
The next item was a head count for those attending Pontiac Southern Nationals in Dallas at the end of May. It appears the Arkansas Pontiac Association will be well represented. Not all members will be taking their cars. Those taking cars will be James Matchett, Bruce Rhoads, Chris Ritter and Frankie Rider.

Of special interest is that Bruce Rhoads will be participating in the High Performance Pontiac shootout race on Monday, June 3rd. This is done annually in conjunction with the PSN show. We wish Bruce the very best of luck.

APA Multiple Winners at Toad Suck

By now you all realize that I'm not the most organized person. I really try but I admit that, if it weren't for Tammy, I'd be hard pressed to find my shoes in the morning.

I made the phone calls regarding the Toad Suck Days car show a mere 4 days prior to the show. That is not what you'd call advance notice. I apologize for that. I find it hard to keep up with all the club responsibilities and watch that calendar as well. This one snuck up on me. I knew it was one of the bigger car shows in the central Arkansas area and should have been pre-



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Shane Shelton, Chris Ritter, Bryan Blocker and Bruce Rhoads all came home with a trophy.

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pared.

The Arkansas Pontiac Association club members didn't fail me. I had four confirmed attendees by the next day and two possible. Talk about showing up at the drop of a hat. You know I'm proud of this club and it's all about you, the members. You earned that respect again.

The Saturday of the car show dawned cloudy with a very light mist. I joined Shane Shelton, Bruce Rhoads and Bryan Blocker at the Maumelle Sonic. We headed out to Conway via I40 and slowed traffic as motorists paused to look at the line of classic Pontiacs rolling down the highway.

The organizers of the show were kind enough to put all four of us together in a section of parking spaces. Luckily, there were some trees immediately behind our parking slot that allowed us an location to hang our banner.

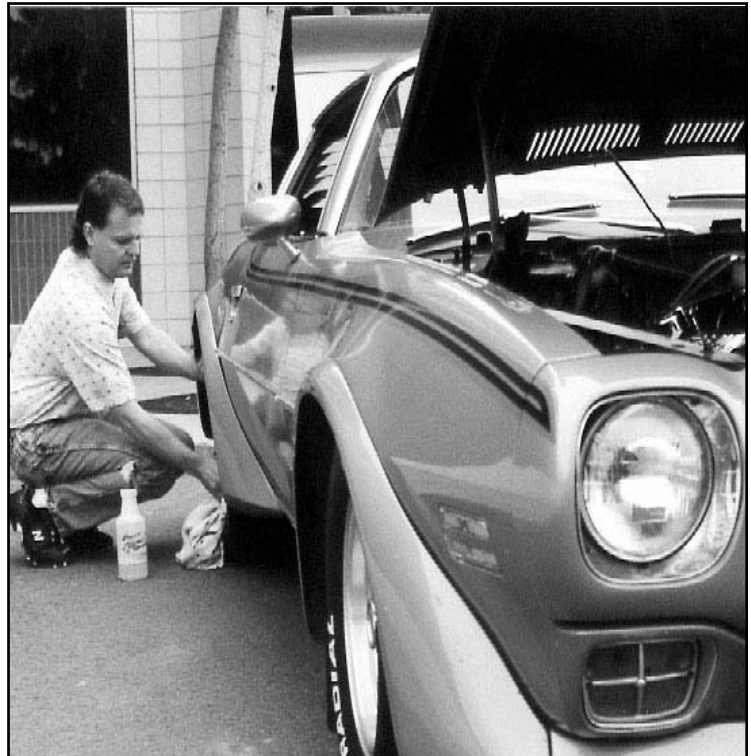
Shortly after we settled in we were joined by James Matchett in his custom third generation Trans Am. As always, his futuristic design drew a crowd of gawkers. While I was cruising the parking lot one of our newest members, Bryan Hartje, rolled in to join us.

Later in the day we had visits from Jeff Schwark and James Ireland. Jerry and Velma Spradlin were already at the show (although Jerry had that danged old Chevy out again) and visited with group.

When trophy time rolled around the APA did well. Bryan Blocker collected a first place trophy for David Templeton's 1973



Trans Am. Chris Ritter managed a second place trophy for his 1974 Super Duty Trans Am. Bruce Rhoads and Shane Shelton took home third place plaques for their 1967 GTO and 1973 Formula Firebird respectively.



APA member cars (top) are lined up in front of the club banner at the Toad Suck Days car show. Shane Shelton (above) cleans his wheels prior to judging. Bruce Rhoads added a whimsical touch to his under hood display (above, left) with these toy tigers.

Arkansas Pontiacs Win Big at PSN in Dallas

The Arkansas Pontiac Association dug up some precious metal while attending the Pontiac Southern Nationals, sponsored by the Dallas Area Pontiac Association, May 31, June 1 and 2 in Dallas.

Five cars from the club attended the show. They were John Ramey in his 1976 Trans Am, James Matchett in his 1989 Trans Am, Bruce Rhoads in his 1967 GTO, Frankie Rider in his 1988 GTA and Chris Ritter in his 1974 Super Duty Trans Am.

The club was lucky enough to secure five parking slots in the show building (a parking garage next to the host hotel) so all were parked together. The club banner was hung behind the display of cars. Several visitors commented on the club's presence and were surprised to find Arkansas had a Pontiac club.

Show day was a very busy day for the participants. Those who hadn't been classed for the show had to undergo a technical inspection. After that, the cleaning and prepping began as participants readied their cars for the show.

Judging went on throughout the day. Teams of judges examined trunks, engine bays, interiors and all points in between to seek out the best Pontiacs in the field. That was no small task with an estimated 400 cars attending the show.

Aside from the show there were seminars, vendor displays, a small swap meet and a display of Pontiac concept vehicles. A silent auction was also taking place to help DAPA raise money for charity.

At 5:00 p.m. the awards ceremony began. The APA won three major awards. John Ramey won a bronze award for his 14,000 original mile, Trans Am in the 1970-76 original class. James Matchett won silver for his custom Trans Am in third generation altered class and Chris Ritter won a gold award for Cordova topped, Super Duty Trans Am in the 1970-1976 modified class.

An additional high point was the inclusion of Bruce Rhoads' GTO in the High Performance Pontiac shootout race on the Monday following the show. Look for Bruce in and upcoming issue.



Award winners included (left to right, above) James Matchett, silver; Chris Ritter, gold; John Ramey, bronze. The Arkansas Pontiac Association banner was hung behind the groups cars that were displayed at the Pontiac Southern Nationals car show.



