

Big Chief's Corner

Getting It Finished

A buddy called me one day and said he wanted to freshen up the engine bay in his Trans Am. He wondered if I might come over and give him a hand with pulling the nose cap and fenders.

The last thing I asked him before I started pulling bolts was "Are you sure you want to do this?" He gave me the nod.

With the sheet metal out of the way he decided, since he had come that far, he might as well pull the motor and freshen it. That lead to exhaust work and, uh-huh, you know where this is going. Three years later he has a pile of parts that used to be a car.

The biggest mistake anyone can make when starting a restoration project is not setting goals and sticking to them. Start your project with a clear vision of what you intend to accomplish and don't sway from that target.

For instance, if you intend to have daily driver, don't build a motor with drag racing credentials. That huge cam and lack of vacuum is going to make those power brakes and vacuum assisted accessories unhappy.

Another common mistake is buying "collector" cars and stacking them up like cord wood. Have you seen those folks who have five or six muscle cars parked around their house or shop? Most of the time the cars are exposed to the elements and slowly deteriorating beyond repair.

Stop and ask if any are for sale. You'll get that "Yeah, I'm going to fix them up one of these days" answer. The problem is that they tied up all their money buying six cars instead of buying one and fixing it. Now "one of these days" will never come.

Here's my blueprint for how to get it done. First, decide exactly how far you're going to go with the project.

Second, estimate all the time and money you think it will take to complete the project and multiply it by three. That will get you close, maybe, if you're careful.

Third, set daily, weekly, monthly and yearly goals. Try to achieve something every day. Don't get upset if you don't reach every daily goal. Some days you'll fall behind and other days you'll catch up.

Last, work on it every day. I tried to spend one hour per day on my project. Even if it's only 10 minutes to run out and shoot another coat of rattle can paint on a part. That's progress. Progress every day means a finished car, not a pile of parts.

Progress Made On 2003 Calendar

Arkansas Pontiac Association getting organized for another exciting year of events

The February meeting laid the foundation for cruise ins, racing and the annual car show for the Arkansas Pontiac Association.

The meeting opened with a treasurer's report from Dusty Palmer. Dusty reported that, after our donation to Arkansas Children's Hospital, we would have a balance of \$696.91 in the club coffers.

He also reported that the IRS had contacted him regarding our non-profit status. They were concerned about a technicality regarding the amount of money realized from events other than member dues. Dusty explained our situation to the official and he was to consult with his superior and get back to us.

After the treasurer's report, club president Chris Ritter presented a check for \$400.00 to Amy Brantley, a representative of Arkansas Children's Hospital. Amy took a few minutes to thank the group and tell them how their effort and money would benefit the children the hospital serves.

Wayne Major reported that we have secured a location for our monthly cruise ins. The Sonic Drive In on Stagecoach Road (highway 5) in west Little Rock will be our new home for cruises. The first cruise is scheduled for April 20 (Easter Sunday) at 4:00 p.m. We expect a low turnout due to the holiday but intend to carry through to work out the bugs of having our first cruise in at the new location.

Ritter reported that race chairman Paul Crutchfield had contacted the Centerville Dragway about possible race days. They recommended two dates in March. It has since been decided that March 29 will be our first race day for the year.

Also on hand was Centerville track owner Wayne Stiles. Wayne suggested a "Pontiac" day at the track this summer. Ritter will be working with Crutchfield to determine if we can host this event.

Ed and Beth Helmstetter were unable to

attend the meeting due to the arrival of a new grandson. They did call Ritter to report that no progress had been made on the Poncho Power Tour.



Amy Brantley of Arkansas Children's Hospital (left) accepts a check from

Ritter reported that he and Bruce Rhoads had met to discuss possible dates for the annual car show. The dates proposed were October 18 or 25.

Ritter also pointed out that last year's turnout might have been better if the location for the show had been a well known spot. Ritter asked the club for authorization to speak to the River Market district officials in downtown Little Rock regarding moving the show to that venue. The vote was unanimous to do so and Ritter will report his findings at the March meeting.

Several club members attended the Vilonia car club event. Ritter gave a brief report on that outing.

The APA will be providing three judges for the Cool Fest car show on March 8 at War Memorial Stadium. Tony Riddick, Bruce Rhoads and Chris Ritter have volunteered to help.

APA members are welcome to attend the show. Registration is from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Cost to enter the show is \$20.00.

Vilonia Meet Has APA Doing Twist and Shout



The children had a great time during the twist competition.

Several APA members made the trip to Vilonia on February 8th for the Vilonia Vintage Car Club's Valentines Day bash.

The Senior Citizens building parking lot was filled with classic cars, street rods and some old fashioned Pontiac muscle. Inside, attendees were treated to a barbeque dinner followed by a hula hoop contest, twist contest, best dressed 50's style competition and some karaoke singing.

APA club members Jerry and Velma Spradlin both won ribbons and candy for their outfits. Velma was attired in the requisite poodle skirt while Jerry sported a spiffy leather jacket, tee shirt and rolled up blue jeans.

Club president Chris Ritter tried his hand (or should that be hips?) at the hula-hoop and proved that he has no coordination!

His antics with the twist weren't much better. It's rumored that he's much better now and that the horse liniment has eased the pain in his back.

Additional photos on page 3.

WOLE Thoughts

By Bruce Rhoads

It looks like the "new GTO" is getting plenty of ink of late. Some love it some don't...Here is my take on it

We the Pontiac people need to give it a chance and here is why. Back in 1964, when the GTO first came to us, it wasn't perfect the first time out. Shoot, it didn't have hood scoops. Just two chrome strips on the hood to add looks. The new Goat doesn't have hood scoops either and everybody is whining and crying about it. Remember this is the first year, and Bob Lutz hasn't been working that long with the design. Give it time.

Look at what Pontiac is going to release. A Bonneville GXP with a Cadillac North star V8. Talk about hauling! Tell the Beamer's to get out of the way! There will also be a Grand-Prix GPX, same for the Grand-Am, and Sunfire. I think they will all be kings of their class.

Now back to the new Goat. I think Mr. Lutz will do wonders for Pontiac. This is the man who brought the world the Viper, the Prowler, and the PT Cruiser. This man has guts and all it takes is for the top brass to let this man do what he does best.

If you want to see another one of his projects in the works, take a look at the new Pontiac Enthusiast magazine, March/April issue. On page 6 you will see a hot looking GT called the G6 which I think will do very well with those looking for a Honda, Toyota, or maybe a 3 series BMW.

This is what Bob wants. Get the buyers of BMW's to come over to Pontiacs instead. That

takes Guts, and a lot of determination. What if the new Goat came with all the hood scoops you wanted, but came with "only the 3800 v6"? Then everyone would really be screaming, IT'S NOT A GTO! IT DOESN'T HAVE A V8 IN IT! Well it does and it's one of the best, the LS-1. Let the GTO Evolve into what it once was.

I've noticed that some of the guys who drive Chevy trucks or Chevys give the people who drive ford trucks a hard time. This is all in fun, calling them dorfs. I thought I could get into the fun, and that's all it is, just fun.

The next time you Chevy guy's with your new trucks think they're made in the USA, think again. Try Mexico! Your truck is put together in Mexico! I know this because my warehouse has a contract with GM to haul racks with parts from various places down to Brownsville, TX. From there the Mexican truck drivers take the trailers into Mexico to their plant.

In fact Toyota's are put together in the USA so that means a Japanese truck is more American than an American truck. That's why Toyota will be in the Craftsman truck series in a year or two. In today's world Japanese isn't Japanese and American isn't American. Japanese cars are more American than American cars are, so lay off the Fords!

That was fun! Now it's time for Bruce's soap box!

My Dad sent me an E-mail about how Pepsi is trying to be all American by putting The Pledge of Allegiance on the can. There's

one problem. They (Top Brass) DIDN'T, AND DON'T HAVE THE GUT'S TO PUT IN THE WORDS UNDER GOD! on the can!

You see they left those two words out. They were afraid they would offend those who don't believe in "GOD. What are you guys STUPID or something? This great country is based on our "FLAG. Men and women have died for those colors, and we are...One Nation under God!

Makes me glad I drink Diet Coke!

I hope those who drink Pepsi get on my soap box and boycott them for being such wimps. They don't want to offend. I'm offended! What you going to do about that? If I knew how to contact them I would give them more than my two cents worth. Wimps!

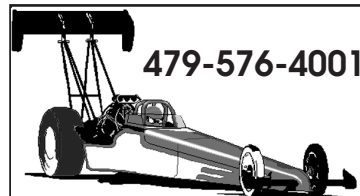
Chris Ritter and I have a meeting the River Market officials to discuss having a car show down there. If we pull this off, it will be the best things to help the APA get some big time notice. It's the perfect place. We'll keep you up to date when we know more.

Looks like March 29th is a day at the races. I'm hoping I can talk a certain club member out of his 3.36 gears, to make long distance cruise's a little easier, or if someone else has gears from 3.23 to 3.36 for a 10 bolt posi unit, Pontiac (not Chevy) rear end, let me know, 501-455-5545.

Well that's all for now. I hope you enjoyed reading this God Bless, and we are ONE NATION UNDER GOD

Later,
Bruce

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I HAVE... U NEED...

Tony Riddick is looking for an L460E transmission. You can call him at 501-888-3096 or

email him at:
Rockylightfoot@aol.com

Chris Ritter has two 15X7 Rally II wheels to give to a good home. You have to take the worn out tires off of them. Call 501-803-9219. critter@arkansaspontiacs.org

Anyone with a 3 speed transmission (or parts) for a 1956 Pontiac should contact Mark Stanberry at: deadelvis@oz-ar.net

If you have items sale, trade, whatever... critter@arkansaspontiacs.org 501-803-9219



Mark Your Calendar

March 8

Cool Fest Car Show
Simple Pleasures car club and State Police sponsored to benefit Special Olympics War Memorial Stadium
Registration opens at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday
Contact Larry Powell - 501-455-3257

APA members will be attending

CAMS cruise in
501-834-1108 or camscar-club.org
6-8 p.m. - Sonic on Kiehl Ave.

March 14 - 16

Southern Trans Am Regionals
University Mall, Pensacola, Florida. Same bunch that runs the Trans Am Nationals. Dash plaques for first 200, swap meet, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd trophies. Points judging. Entry fee of \$35.00 includes a Tshirt (more for larger sizes). No phone number or web site on this flyer so you'll have to mail them.
STARS
C/O Mark Parrett
801 South Drive
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

March 16

Regular meeting. 2:00 p.m. at the Arkansas Aerospace Education Center, 3301 E. Roosevelt Rd. in Little Rock. Come in the main entrance and go downstairs. It's the meeting room between the library and theater entrance

March 20

Cruisin in the Rock
Little Rock River Market 6 p.m.
Door prizes.
At the pavilion in the River Market district, downtown Little Rock.

March 22

2nd Annual Swap Meet & Car Corral
Mountain Home
870-425-6575; 870-424-5987;
Email - ec1959@mtnhome.com

March 29

APA Drag Racing
Centerville Dragway
Meet at the Cracker Barrel in Conway at 10:30 a.m.
\$10.00 - race, \$5.00 - watch.
We need to know who's going so please call Paul Crutchfield - 870-699-4425. If you're not meeting us at Cracker Barrel, tell him.

Arkansas Pontiac Association Membership

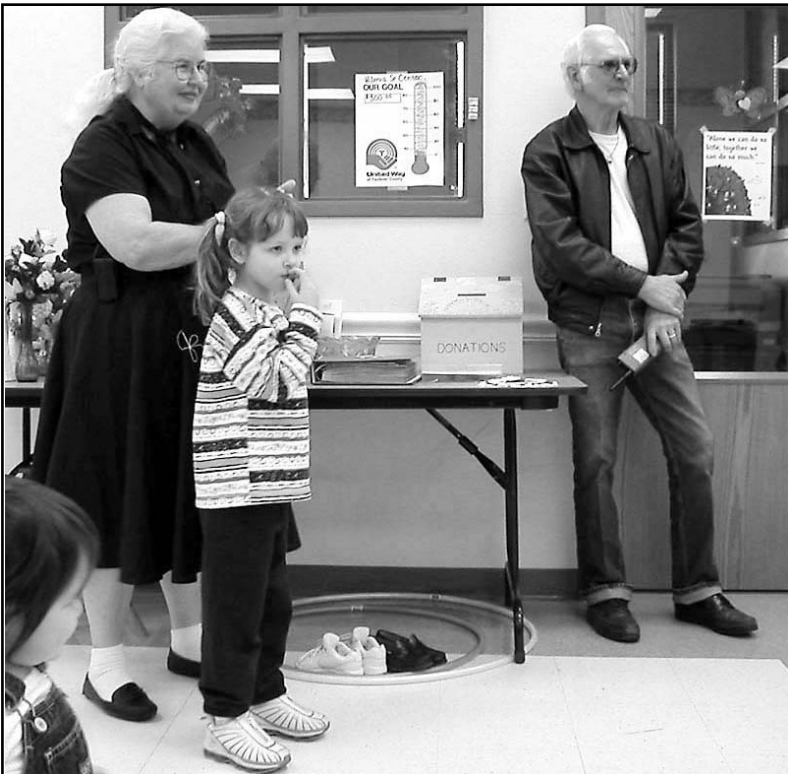
Eddie Anderson	16817 Raines Rd.	Little Rock	AR	72210	501-455-3515
Jonathan Badgett	118 CR 4866 South	Dayton	TX	77535	479-466-3014
Bryan Blocker	118 Mirimar	Maumelle	AR	72113	501-851-0612
John Brooks	171 Tower Loop	Lonoke	AR	72086	501-676-2725
Russell Butler	914 West Holland Ave.	White Hall	AR	71602	870-267-1772
Paul Crutchfield	343 Highway 291 North	Prattville	AR	72129	870-699-4425
Michael Cherry	271 Stringham Rd.	Searcy	AR	72143	501-742-5756
Marvin Dunnahoo	2044 Horseshoe Loop Rd.	Little Rock	AR	72206	501-888-8084
Lynda Flieg	49 Rosewood Dr.	Beebe	AR	72012	501-882-6070
Claudio Garcia	251 Deer Acres	Cabot	AR	72023	501-843-0731
Ed Helmstetter	715 Trevino Drive	Maumelle	AR	72113	501-851-8370
Ken Hodge	518 Cherry Ave.	Sherwood	AR	72102	501-833-8886
James Ireland	7810 Preston Dr.	Little Rock	AR	72209	501-565-1602
Dan Joslin	7 St. Thomas Drive	Maumelle	AR	72113	501-851-1544
Jonathan Lobb	19 Crepe Myrtle Place	Little Rock	AR	72210	501-455-1175
Wayne Major	3900 North Cedar	North Little Rock	AR	72116	501-758-5840
James Matchett	25 Blackstone Circle	North Little Rock	AR	72118	501-753-6108
Vance Morgan	720 Carter Drive	Marion	AR	72364	870-732-6101
Dusty Palmer	29 High Trails Dr.	Maumelle	AR	72113	501-851-6191
David Payne	33 Ferncrest Dr.	Little Rock	AR	72223	501-821-3979
John Ramey	P.O. Box 276	Wrightsville	AR	72183	501-397-7545
Brian Ray	PO Box 25212	Scott, AFB	IL	6225-0212	501-843-0960
Bruce Rhoads	13125 Meadowview Dr.	Alexander	AR	72002	501-455-5545
Tony Riddick	15015 Claude Dr.	Little Rock	AR	72206	501-888-3096
Frankie Rider II	399 Radio Tower Road	Locust Grove	AR	72550	870-668-3724
Chris Ritter	18 Turquoise Dr.	Maumelle	AR	72113	501-803-9219
Marty Ritter	5310 Prospect Rd.	Jonesboro	AR	72401	501-933-7428
Geoffrey Schwark	450 Deer Creek	Cabot	AR	72023	501-941-2834
Jerry Spradlin	2802 College Ave.	Conway	AR	72032	501-329-5519
Daniel Sullivan	522 Ray Young Rd.	Carlisle	AR	72024	501-920-8950
David Templeton	11 River Road West	Mayflower	AR	72106-8414	501-851-0891
Ken Trantham	350 Cagle Rock Circle	Russelville	AR	72802	479-968-8849
Archie Williams	9725 Cochrane St.	Mabelvale	AR	72103	501-455-1721
Emanuel Williams	10412 Sardis Rd	Mabelvale	AR	72103	501-455-1721



The Valentines gathering in Vilonia was all about being with our loved ones. Yep, you got it, our cars. Oh yeah, wives, husbands significant others were welcome as well <grin>.



Enjoying the food (above) were (L to R) Emily, Khmong and Tony Riddick, joined by Jerry Spradlin. Wayne Major (left) proved that you can never have too many desserts.



That good looking couple in the period dress are APA members Velma and Jerry Spradlin. They won the costume contest. Standing with Velma is their grand daughter Sydney. Emily Riddick (who had a great time with the hula-hoop) is in the lower left corner of the photo.