



The newsletter of the Motor City Chapter of
Pontiac-Oakland Club International

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Meetings held at

Bakers of Milford

www.bakersofmilford.com



September 2018

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Announcements

At our September board meeting, the chapter's board of directors made some changes to the general chapter membership regular meeting schedule. There will be **no more general chapter meetings in 2018**, except for December, when our Christmas party will take the place of our general meeting (see Christmas party invitation in this issue).

Starting in January 2019, the chapter will hold six general meetings per calendar year. As before, the meetings will fall on the third Thursday of the given month and will be held at 7:00 PM at Baker's Of Milford. Those meetings will be held in January, March, May, July, September, October, and December. You will receive a newsletter on or before the first day of each of those months that will include a meeting reminder and, if applicable, a meeting agenda.

The board also voted to advertise our 2019 car show in the April, May, and June issues of Cruis'News magazine.

I couldn't find a willing subject for "Member Spotlight" this time around, so I interviewed myself. If you're interested in being the next featured chapter member, please email me at gainsmcdonald@gmail.com.

This issue also marks the debut of a new feature I call "Snapshots In Time." If you have a photo and/or story that you'd like to share, I'd love to publish it in this section of the newsletter!

Until next time,
Gains



South Lyon Hotel

201 N Lafayette St, South Lyon, MI 48178

www.southlyonhotel.com

Sunday, December 9th

4:00 PM

Dinner and non-alcoholic beverages provided

RVSP to Ken Galdes at kengaldes@gmail.com

Member Spotlight:

Gains McDonald



Where do you live?

Monroe, Michigan. Before that, Lake Orion, Before that Ohio.

Tell us about your family/significant other/any pets:

My wife, Tacey, and I have two sons. Davis is 12 and Brody is 15. Oh, we also have a miniature schnauzer named Norman.

When did you join the Motor City Chapter (approximately)?

I'm a charter member. We received our official status as a POCI chapter in 2006.

What was your first car?

My first car was a 1976 Grand Prix LJ with 120,000 miles on its odometer when I got it.

What Pontiacs, Oaklands, or GMCs do you currently own? Have you owned any others in the past? Tell us each one! For example, how long have (or did) you own(ed) it? What makes it special?

After the '76 I owned a '77 Grand Prix. That one was a base model, bench seat, 301 2-barrel car. I liked it but always wanted an SJ, so now in its place is a '77 SJ with bucket seats and a Pontiac 400. I'm the second owner. I also have a 1994 Firehawk; it's a six-speed with no t-tops and #397 of a run of 500 for that model year. I ordered it in the summer of 1993, but because the six-speed manual transmission was in short supply, the car didn't get built and delivered until April 15, 1994 (happy tax day!)



Do you own (or have you owned) any other special/hobby cars?

Before I came to work for General Motors, I owned a red 1986 Mustang LX convertible for a while. The most fun daily driver I ever had was either that car or a black 1999 Grand Prix GTP coupe that I did some minor mods to. I also once had a 1970 Cadillac 75 Series informal limousine that I took off my father's hands when its service career was over. He owned three owned funeral homes at the time and I was always scheming to get my hands on one of the hearses or limousines when he was ready to get a new one! I never did get a hearse, and now he's retired, but someday I'd like to have a Pontiac hearse.

What are your favorite Pontiacs (or Oaklands or GMCs) of all time?

I love Grand Prixes of pretty much every model year, but other than the '77 I really like the '69 and '70. I also like all Firebirds, but especially the early second gens, the "Bandit" Trans Ams of '77/78, and the third gens of my high school years (yes, *Knight Rider* was cool back then!). And, the '69 Judge is an iconic car in my mind. I might run out of space here! Let's just say I've hardly ever met a Pontiac I didn't like.

How did you become interested in Pontiacs (or Oaklands or GMC's)?

My dad had a '71 Grand Prix and a '77 Grand Prix, which I thought were ultra cool. *Smokey and The Bandit* and *Knight Rider* only helped push me down the path!

Please recommend to the rest of the chapter some car shows you've enjoyed (local or otherwise).

The Pontiac Nationals in Norwalk, Ohio is a fantastic event. I also like the Trans Am Nationals and our three local Pontiac shows.

Do you have any favorite car-related TV shows or movies?

Speed Racer probably got me hooked on cars in general (with a few Hot Wheels television commercials thrown in). In no particular order I also love *Smokey and The Bandit*, *Knight Rider*, *Le Mans*, *Grand Prix*, *Two Lane Blacktop*, *American Graffiti*, and *The Cannonball Run*.

Do you have any hobbies other than automobiles?

I collect old beer signs, neon and otherwise, mainly to decorate the home bar in my man cave. I also love vintage arcade video games and pinball machines (more stuff for the man cave!).

Do you have any recommendations to improve our chapter?

My biggest wish is just for more participation, more camaraderie, and more fun!

Snapshots In Time

Jack Humbert (left), Pontiac's chief designer at the time of this photo, inspects the detailed fiberglass styling mock-up of the 1967 Firebird with Charles "Chuck" Jordan, eventual Vice President of Design. Humbert had been chief designer for Pontiac studio since March, 1959, when he was promoted to that position at age 34. He continued to be promoted to positions of greater responsibility throughout his career at General Motors Design until his untimely death at age 60.

