

PontiAction

PONTIAC HISTORY

Editor's Note—For the next few issues, the “featured car” section of this newsletter will be replaced by some fun and interesting information and photos regarding the history of Pontiacs.

In 1893, Edward M. Murphy established the Pontiac Buggy Company in Pontiac, Michigan and produced horse drawn carriages thru 1906. Across town The Pontiac Spring and Wagon Works was incorporated in July 1899 by Albert G. North and Harry G. Hamilton. By 1905 they had taken over the manufacturing of the Rapid Truck (from the Rapid Motor Vehicle Co.) that had been introduced two years earlier. In 1907 they decided to produce an automobile. The first Pontiac Spring and Wagon Works automobile, simply named “The Pontiac” was introduced that fall by the Pontiac Spring & Wagon Works. It was a highwheeler weighing 1,000 pounds and powered by a two-cylinder water-cooled 12 hp engine. A prototype was displayed in October 1907 at an exhibition sponsored by the Carriage Dealers’ Association in New York City’s Grand Central Palace. In December of the same year several of the new Pontiacs were exhibited at the Chicago Automobile Show. Well received by the press, the car featured final drive by double chain and a friction transmission. The wheelbase was 70 inches, front wheels 38, with 40s in the rear, and solid rubber tires. The first deliveries were probably made in early 1908.

As it became clear that motorcar sales were surpassing carriages, Murphy incorporated the Oakland Motor Car Company in 1907, an offshoot of his Pontiac Buggy Company.

Murphy is said to have chosen the name Oakland for his car venture, located in Oakland County of Michigan, city of Pontiac, because cross-town rival Pontiac Spring and Wagon Works already was making a high-wheel motor wagon under the Pontiac name.

In 1908, the Oakland Motor Car Company and the Pontiac Spring and Wagon Works merged together under the Oakland Motor Car Company. Later in 1908, the first Oaklands went to market. The first Oaklands used an unusual Alanson Brush

designed two cylinder vertical engine, which rotated counterclockwise. This type of engine was common in French cars but not popular with American engineers. The engines worked fine, but the cars did not sell well. In January 1909, General Motors President William C. Durant purchased a 50% interest in the Oakland Motor Car Company. Later that year GM bought out the other 50% after the unexpected death of Edward M. Murphy at the age of 45.



* 1907 The Pontiac High-Wheel *

(Cont. Page 3)

PREZ SEZ:

The weather (or lack thereof) this winter is troubling. Remember the old saw that it would rain as soon as you washed your car? Maybe we should plan a 2 or 3 day show & shine—think that would bring on Old Man Winter?

The Christmas Party was very nice and fairly well attended. Jim has informed the Club that Hobey's will not be an option for next year's event. So be thinking about an alternative—maybe an “end of the year” party at someone's home? Back to the Elks Club? A restaurant in town? Any ideas would be appreciated and we need to definitely snag a date soon if we want to obtain restaurant or Elks Club space for that time of year.

Speaking of events, be watching for our 2015 Event Calendar to be emailed soon. I certainly hope that more members will participate in some of these activities this year. The Activities committee is scheduling things that you, the members, have chosen, so let's see some major participation this year!

Dale Lowery



PONTIAC OFFICERS

President	Dale Lowery	775-745-8072	dlowery@ddplumbing.com
Vice President	Mike Nowicki	775-626-6407	msjnowicki@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Terri Schuff	775-747-2316	dandt.schuff@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jim LeBar	775-825-4648	jlebar@sbcglobal.net
Activities	Rhonda Kelly	775-331-5377	lironnie@charter.net
Newsletter	Jacque Lowery	775-771-7390	nevadabird@charter.net
Web Master	Hugo Tafel	775-217-4317	hugotafel@yahoo.com
Membership	Cindy Rentsch	775-849-3274	rentschd@intercomm.com
	Dwala Mandas	775-323-3211	dwalag@sbcglobal.net

EDITOR'S CORNER

PontiAction is the official newsletter of the Silver State Chapter of the POCI. We need members to submit articles, jokes and life experience stories. New members, we would like to hear your car stories. All articles are appreciated. Let me hear from you. **LET'S TALK PONTIAC**. Submissions are due on the **FIRST** day of the month. Submissions received after that will be in the next newsletter. Submit to: nevadabird@charter.net **OR** **MAIL TO:** Jacque Lowery, 12520 Westridge Dr., Reno, NV 89511



(Pontiac History cont.)

The Pontiac brand was introduced by General Motors in 1926 as the companion marque to GM's Oakland division. Within months of its introduction, Pontiac was outselling Oakland. As a result of Pontiac's rising sales, versus Oakland's declining sales, Pontiac became the only companion marque to survive its parent, with Oakland ceasing production in 1932.



1926 Pontiac

Pontiac produced cars offering 40 hp 186.7 ci L-head straight 6-cylinder engines in the Pontiac Chief of 1927; its stroke was the shortest of any American car in the industry at the time. The Chief sold 39,000 units within six months of its appearance at the 1926 New York Auto Salon, hitting 76,742 at twelve months. The next year, it became the top-selling six in the U.S., ranking seventh in overall sales.



1930 Pontiac



1934 Series 603

By 1933, Pontiac had moved up to producing the least expensive cars available with straight eight-cylinder engines. In the late 1930s, Pontiac used the so-called torpedo body of the Buick for one of its models, just prior to its being used by Chevrolet. This body style brought some attention to the marque. An unusual feature of the "torpedo" body exhibition car, was that with the push of a button the front half of the car body would open showing the engine and the car's front seat interior.



1938 Hearse



1940 Torpedo 8 Sport Coupe

In 1940, Pontiac introduced a new vehicle called the Pontiac Torpedo. It was available as 2 door or 4 door sedan. It had larger windows and wider seats than other Pontiacs and long streamlined rear decks. Concealed hinges were used on all doors.

Two years later, on February 2, 1942 a Pontiac was the last civilian automobile manufactured in the United States during World War II, as all automobile factories converted to military production.

(To be Continued next newsletter)

PONTIAC LOGOS

I found a lot of different images but not much information. Anyone know the years each of these was used?



SILVER STATE PONTIACS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

THANKS TO JIM & DWALA FOR A JOB WELL DONE!



A GREAT EVENING OF GOOD FOOD, CONVERSATION AND FUN GIFT EXCHANGE.

Curly Horning donated a nice Gruen Pontiac wristwatch to the Club, to be used as a fundraiser. Raffle tickets were sold during meetings and at the Christmas Party. The winning ticket was drawn at the party and the lucky new owner is Bill Rentsch. Congrats!

The blind cashier at Bass Pro Shop

A woman goes into the Bass Pro Shop to buy a rod and reel for her grandson's birthday. She doesn't know which one to get so she just grabs one and goes over to the counter. A Bass Pro Shop associate is standing there wearing dark shades. She says, "Excuse me, sir. Can you tell me anything about this rod and reel?" He says, "Ma'am, I'm completely blind; but if you'll drop it on the counter, I can tell you everything from the sound it makes." She doesn't believe him but drops it on the counter anyway. He says, "That's a six-foot Shakespeare graphite rod with a Zebco 404 reel and 10-LB. test line. It's a good all-around combination and it's on sale this week for only \$20.00."

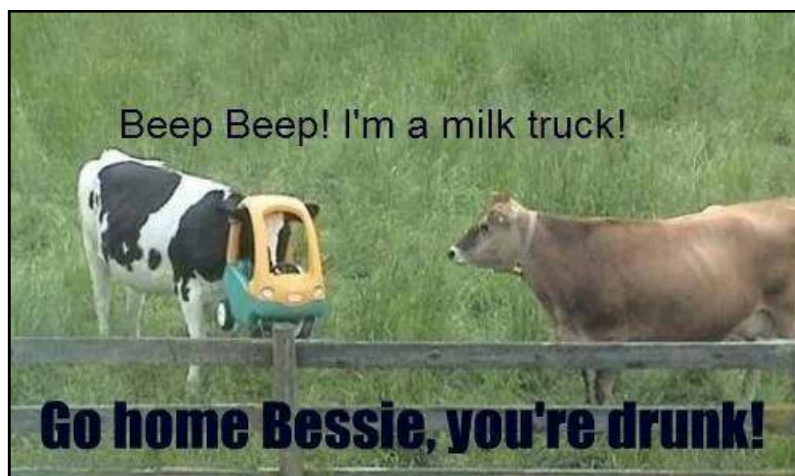
She says, "It's amazing that you can tell all that just by the sound of it dropping on the counter. I'll take it!" As she opens her purse, her credit card drops on the floor. "Oh, that sounds like a Master Card," he says. She bends down to pick it up and accidentally farts. At first she is really embarrassed, but then realizes there is no way the blind clerk could tell it was she who tooted. Being blind, he wouldn't even know that she was the only person around.

The man rings up the sale and says, "That'll be \$34.50 please." The woman is totally confused by this and asks, "Didn't you tell me the rod and reel were on sale for \$20.00? How did you get \$34.50?" He replies, "Yes, Ma'am. The rod and reel is \$20.00, but the Duck Call is \$11.00 and the Bear Repellent is \$3.50."

2015 EVENT CALENDAR

Finishing touches are being put on our Club Events Calendar for the year based on the preference survey by members.

Be on the lookout for an email coming your way with calendar attached for all the fun things the Activities Committee has in store for us this year! Let's have some great member participation this year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CLUB EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Regular Club Meeting	February 19	Dennys
Regular Club Meeting	March 19	Dennys

Club Member Passes

Steven Lang, SSPC member for the last few years, passed away this month. He was raised in Reno, graduating from Reed High School. He was a building contractor, with a real passion for wood working. Steve had a love for airplanes and never missed the Reno Air Races. He also loved building guitars, NASCAR racing, restoring his 1968 Firebird, riding his Harley, camping, target shooting, Rolling Stones concerts, and blues music. Steve was married with two children and three grandchildren.

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

Patricia Irwin	2nd
Jerry Nelms	12th
Jim Mandas	19th



FEBRUARY

Chuck Maze	5th
Russ Horning	16th
Sharon Lynch	16th
Dave Smith	21st
Dan Adams	23rd
Stephen Lemm	23rd
Peggy Nelms	27th

ANNIVERSARIES



JANUARY

Dave & Carol Smith	8 yrs
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FEBRUARY

Bill & Cindy Rentsch	41 yrs
Ken & Lynn Burney	48 yrs

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NEED TO ADVERTISE? HERE'S HOW.....

Send an E-mail to: nevadabird@charter.net or use the U.S. Postal Service to:
Jacque Lowery, 12520 Westridge Drive, Reno, NV 89511

Advertising Rates:
Full Page: \$30 per issue
Half Page: \$15 per issue
Business Cards: \$5 per issue

You can send a photo, full description of item, price and contact information and we'll get it in the next issue of **PontiAction**.
Club members can advertise cars & parts free!
Club members advertising a business pay the rate.

PontiAction

**P.O. Box 4521
Sparks, NV 89432**

**SILVER STATE
PONTIACS**



**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:
www.silverstatepontiacs.com**

NEXT MEETING

**FEBRUARY 19 7:00 PM
DENNY'S**