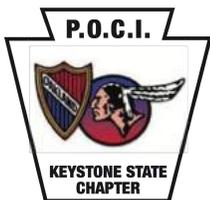


PONTIACTION

April-May 2021

45 YEARS OF JUST
HAVING FUN

Since almost all of the 2020 activities were cancelled we are applying your 2020 dues (renewal or new member) to 2021 - you are automatically renewed.



The Original *Pontiacion* Chapter...
The **Keystone State Chapter**
Pontiac Oakland Club International



From The Chief

Hello All,

Well, spring is finally here and things are looking up.

The club leadership has worked really hard to keep the club going in a positive direction over more than a year with no activities. We were able to have our Junkyard tour and Christmas Party late last year.

Dick has done a terrific job in keeping membership up to date with our newsletter and email communications.

We are always working to keep both the website and facebook page current and informative.

In saying all that great stuff, it is time to get back to seeing folks in person and, most importantly, showing off and driving our cars.

The POCI convention in Connecticut IS **ON**, and I hope you're thinking of attending.

In a Keystone Chapter's earlier newsletter we published our proposed calendar of events for 2021.

Saturday, May 1st is our first event. We will be visiting a new car museum, Barry's Auto Barn in Intercourse, PA. The information is in on the website and was sent via separate mailing. Please come out and support this first event. We will re-engage with old friends and be able to spend time together as well as viewing an exciting new car collection and automobillia in a terrific location in the heart of Amish Country. There is plenty of parking, food places, and shops to visit as well. Come out to support your club, enjoy the day, and have fun in '21 with fellow club members.

Even more exciting, our "GM on Display" is on and moving forward for Sunday June 6th at Macungie, PA.

Details are in this newsletter. Please spread the word to your friends and fellow car enthusiasts. We would really hope to have a strong GM showing for the first event/show since the pandemic.

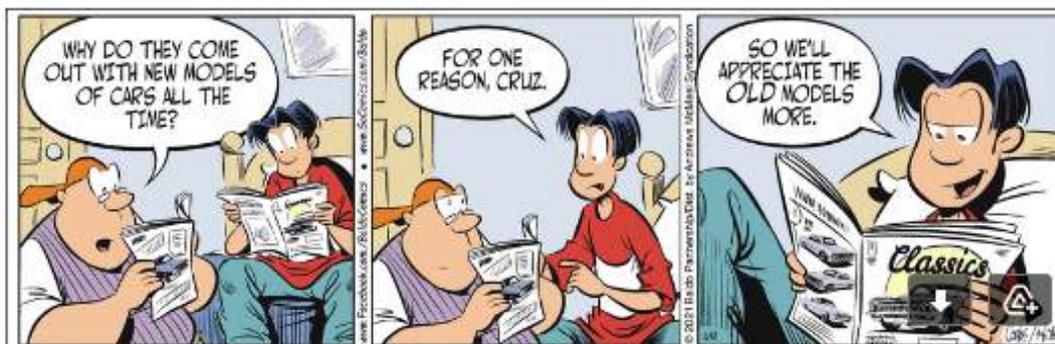
A wonderful car venue, DJ, food, door prizes, old friends and TERRIFIC cars. Again, support your club, promote the show to any car folks and see ya all on June 6th.

I hope you see we are moving forward and notice that we are back in the car business and have some terrific events planned for this year. Club Picnic, additional tours and car shows coming up.

Thanks to all our membership for their support and patiences through the past year plus, but now it's time to have some fun.

See ya down the road and at these two super events

Tom



Dale Earnhardt Jr. Restores Busch Series Car Raced by His Dad



For almost two years, Dale Earnhardt Jr. has been working to restore a vintage Chevrolet Nova that his father raced in the Busch Grand National Series back in the 1980s, but it started “life” officially as a **Pontiac Ventura**. (picture compliments of AutoWeek)



1935 Righthand Drive Pontiac for sale in Australia. Note the fabric roof panel which was not part of the standard US-made 35's

Jay and Dena Hornung New Member Profile

We are excited to be a part of a local club that shared the same enthusiasm and passion for classic cars and automotive heritage. I have been an antique car enthusiast my early childhood. My grandfather would always talk about old cars he had and that began my interest. In my early teens, my sister's boyfriend was a local mechanic who was known for rebuilding cylinder heads. I would help out in his shop learning the basics of auto mechanics. My interest in classic cars and working on them has grown into a major passion that now my wife and 3 boys also share and enjoy. We enjoy working on the cars regularly at our shop behind my business in Langhorne.

We also attend several different car auctions annually including Mecum shows and Barrett Jackson. We have been to several different cities for both auctions including Harrisburg, Las Vegas, Phoenix/Scottsdale, Dallas and Kissimmee. We attend local and regional car shows as often as possible and have really missed going to shows this year. We hope we can have shows in 2021 and get to meet some of our new member friends from KSC. We are very fortunate to have a nice collection of Pontiacs and other classic vehicles. These include:

1968 Pontiac Firebird Convertible (not original) with a 428 auto trans

1969 Pontiac GTO Judge – Matching numbers Ram Air III 4 speed

1969 Pontiac GTO Convertible Ram Air IV -WW Block car w/ 4 speed – 1 of 43

1970 Pontiac GTO Convertible Ram Air III matching numbers Auto – highly optioned, A/C and cruise control, all power.

1954 Chevy 3100 5-Window Pick-up. Currently converting to a Resto Mod with an LS2





42nd Annual General Motors on Display



Cadillac



LaSalle

SPONSORED BY THE KEYSTONE STATE CHAPTER, PONTIAC-OAKLAND CLUB INTERNATIONAL

EXHIBITION OF GENERAL MOTORS CARS, TRUCKS, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, & FLEA MARKET FOR GENERAL MOTORS PARTS

Due to Covid-19, please follow CDC guidelines, social distancing, and

PLEASE WEAR A MASK

LOCATION - Macungie Memorial Park (home of Das Awkscht Fescht), Rt. 100, center of Macungie, Pa.

DATE/TIME Sunday, June 6, 2021 (Rain or Shine) Registration 9:00 am -12:00 Noon

CLASSES - The show is open to all General Motors cars and trucks.

Cars will be parked in the order they arrive; special requests will be considered

AWARDS No judging or trophies. High quality dash plaques for the **first 100 registered vehicles** excluding cars for sale. Door prizes will be awarded by drawing.

VENDORS - Flea market featuring General Motors parts and literature.

FOR SALE - For Sale signs are not permitted on the show field. Vehicles for sale will be the same price as show vehicles and parked in the Car Corral

FOOD - Coffee, donuts, and a hot breakfast will be available in the park until 11 AM. A variety of hot and cold lunch items will be served after 11 AM.

MUSIC - A variety of music will be provided by our DJ.

INFO - Rosemary & Don Haley, 9 Beryl Rd.; Paoli, PA 19301.
Phone: (610) 608-7904 Email: gmondisplay@gmail.com

REGISTER - Show vehicles \$10.00 pre-registered, \$12.00 day of show. Cars for Sale same price. Flea market spaces 20'x20' \$15.00 pre-registered, \$20.00 day of show. Vendors must furnish tables.

Pre-registration deadline is May 25, 2021 Keep the top and send the registration form below only

GENERAL MOTORS ON DISPLAY - PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY I am unable to attend
please keep me on your mailing list

DEADLINE: Detach and return by May25, 2021 **SEND** Checks/Money Order
PAYABLE TO: Keystone State Chapter P.O.C.I. **MAIL TO:** Don Haley, 9 Beryl Road, Paoli, PA 19301
ENCLOSE: \$10.00 per vehicle, \$15.00 per 20'x20' vendor space

NAME _____ **E-mail** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

YEAR _____ **CAR MAKE** _____
MODEL _____ **BODYSTYLE** _____

SHOW CARS (ABOVE) _____ @ \$10.00 CARS FOR SALE _____ @ \$10.00 FLEA MARKET SPACES _____ @ \$15.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ SIGNATURE: _____

By signing you are stating that you will not hold the Keystone State Chapter P.O.C.I. responsible for illness or personal injury, property damage, or other liability. YOU MUST SIGN TO BE CONSIDERED PRE-REGISTERED



2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



May 1, Saturday: Barry's Car Barn (see website & separate emailing)

June 6, Sunday: GM on Display (flyer included this issue)

June 26, Saturday: Knoebels Grove; Tent #4 also known as T-4

July 11-15, National Convention (49th) – Mohegan Sun Resort, Uncasville, CT (go to www.poci.org for details and registration)

**August 8, Sunday: Club Day at Das Awkscht Fescht;
for registration form and details; register **BY JULY 1****

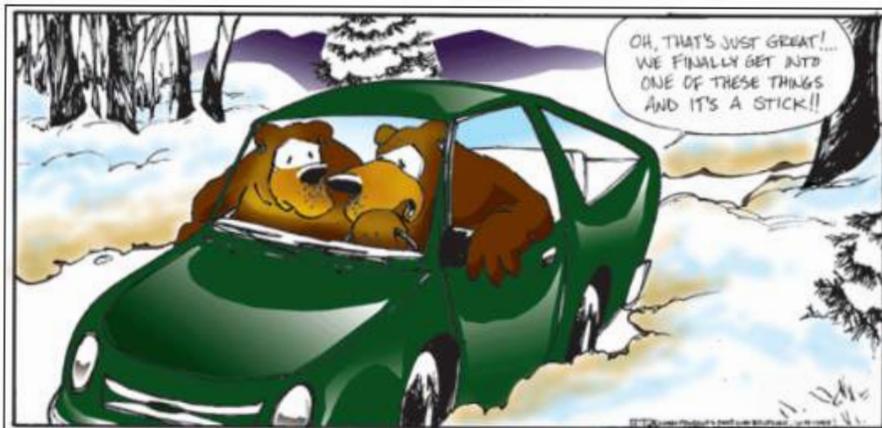
Sept 26(?), Sunday: Fall meet at Ebersole, Lebanon, PA; dealer's 101th anniversary; Cadillac, Buick, Olds, Pontiac, GMC show.

Oct, 23 or 24, Tour TBD

November 26, Friday: Black Friday Junk Yard Tour

December 4, Saturday: Christmas Party, Bird-In-Han Restaurant, 12:30p

January 9, 2022, Sunday: Board/Planning Meeting, Bird-In-Hand Fire House; Noon start



Steering Wheels

The Unofficial, and Possibly Flawed History of the Steering Wheel in Automobiles, reprinted with the permission of Judy Burns, editor of *The Harford Horn*.

This cartoon got me curious about the history of the steering wheel. So I jumped into my chair, turned on my computer, as libraries are closed due to the pandemic, and started down the “road of discovery” – a bumpy road with many hills, valleys, twists and turns.

The evolution of the steering wheel was in tandem with the evolution of the automobile and occurred in various locations around the world, so pinpointing the first “official” steering wheel in an automobile is a bit complicated. The word automobile is derived from the Greek word *αὐτός*, meaning "self", and the Latin word “mobilis”, meaning "movable". In my research, there seem to be various opinions about what a “real automobile “is” other than it had to be self propelled and meant to carry people. Decisions about what parameters would need to be met to be considered an “automobile” were debated including what kind of power is used, maintaining a certain speed, reliability, safety, and, in the US, criteria that a vehicle was deemed “suitable to be driven on existing roads”. Also needed was a system where one could claim an idea, turned into an invention, could be protected for a period of time without others stealing it. Luckily the history of the “patent” is older than the history of the automobile (one less turn in the road).

Horse drawn carriages provided early transportation before self powered vehicles were invented. The horses were fitted with bridles and reins were attached to either side of a bit that went into the horses mouth. The driver used the reins to steer the carriage by pulling on the left side of the rein to turn left or the right side of the rein to turn right.

So, as the story goes, Alfred Vacheron is considered the inventor of the first steering wheel in a car. Auto manufacturer Panhard & Levassor liked Vacherons steering wheel idea. Arthur Krebs, a prolific inventor, became the general manager of Panhard & Levassor and replaced the tiller with an inclined steering wheel for the Paris-Amsterdam race held in July 1898. The four cylinder Panhard & Levassor driven by Fernand Charron won the race. From then on, steering wheels were a standard feature on the the Panhard & Levassor automobiles.

Detour 1:

It was interesting to learn about Arthur Krebs (another turn on my discovery road). In the UK in 1896, Krebs patented a new automobile fitted with an electromagnet gearbox and a layout of the front wheels which re-centred them when the steering wheel was left alone - known today as the “Castor angle”. (OK you’ll need to look that one up yourself).

Detour 2:

Interestingly, in the US, Krebs (noted above) testified for the defense in a patent infringement lawsuit against automakers over an engine design. First filed in 1879, the patent was finally awarded to George Sheldon in 1895 for an automobile sized internal combustion engine (“a liquid-hydrocarbon engine of the compression type”) which he called a “Road Engine”. The patent was not about steering wheels but I mention it because he used a drawing of his “Road Engine” in a 4-wheeled vehicle with steering wheel controls (although it seemed more like a tiller system). Although he never went into the production of automobiles using his engine patent, he claimed, because of the drawing, that he had patented a gas powered automobile - a patent that seemed more like an “idea” of an automobile than the automobile itself.

By 1895 other companies were manufacturing cars and Sheldon maintained that they were violating his automobile patent. Although Sheldon lacked the money to hire lawyers to process his claims, his patent was bought by William Whitney for \$10,000 and 5% of any royalties it might generate. Lawsuits ensued and Sheldon did benefit from some income from the royalties. In a lengthy battle, Henry Ford fought against the patent infringement claims and eventually won.

The Steering Wheel

Steering wheels were mounted on a steering column by a hub connected to the outer ring of the steering wheel by one or more spokes. They were considered to be easier to hold, provided more control of steering at higher speeds, and had replaced the use of tillers in automobiles by the early 1900's.

Charles Rolls was the first manufacturer in Britain with a steering wheel on his 6 horsepower Panhard Rolls, and in the USA, Packard Motor Company claims to be the first company to feature a steering wheel on their 1901 Model C Packard. A bicycle manufacturer in Cleveland, Ohio, Alexander Winton, is credited with being the first to produce large quantities of cars in the US with steering wheels for the mass market in 1898.

Location of a steering wheel in the vehicle

As cars developed around the world, so did the rules for the car itself including design and safety. Decisions needed to be made not only about where a car should be driven on the road, but where the steering wheel should be placed within the car. Historic traditions preceding automobiles varied in different countries around the world resulting in decisions whether to drive on the right or left side of the road. The actual placement of the steering wheel within the car depended on which side of the road the car was driven, (turning down that road will have to wait).

The Thomas B. Jeffrey Company manufactured the Rambler brand automobiles from 1902 to 1913. Charles, the son of Thomas Jeffrey, changed the Rambler brand to "The Jeffrey" automobile to honor his father after he died. He changed his father's car design moving the steering wheel from the right side to the left side of the car. The Jeffrey automobile was produced from 1914 to 1917. Other cars in the United States started featuring steering wheels located on the left side of the vehicles as well.

Steering Wheels and Columns

Steering wheels were mounted on a non-collapsible steering column. Concerns that a non-collapsible steering column could impale the driver in case of an accident, collapsible columns started to be designed. New regulations about them were enacted by the US Department of Transportation in 1968 defining a standard that must be met.

The evolution of safety rules evolved alongside the evolution of the automobile so the first thing to appear on a steering wheel was a horn. Horns were installed on vehicles to warn horses, pedestrians, and cyclists that they were on the road.



“Bulb” horns were fitted to the tillers on early automobiles and later on the steering wheel rim. Horns and horn activation switches could also be placed on the the steering column. “Horn Buttons” increased in size and were located in the middle the steering wheel. “Horn Rings”, attached to the horn buttons, appeared on some vehicles and designed so one could stretch a finger or thumb to sound the horn without having to take your hands off the steering wheel. The “Rim Blow” consisted of a soft rubber pad placed around the inside of the steering wheel and used in the 1960’s and 1970’s. One could press anywhere on the inside of the wheel to blow the horn.

Design

The design of a steering wheel was usually round although other shapes such as a square, rectangle, or butterfly shape have been used. A steering wheel with wire spokes was named the “Banjo” wheel as it reminded one of strings the instrument. These steering wheels appeared on early cars before power steering and was said to help buffer the drivers hands from the thrumming of the road.

How much effort it took for a driver to turn a moving car with the steering wheel was used to determine the diameter of the wheel. Based on grip and leverage, the early cars needed a larger diameter steering wheel to help the driver turn it in a given direction.

The early steering wheels were made of wood. Later they were made of steel covered by a hard plastic. Bakelite, a synthetic plastic, was invented in 1907 by Leo Hendrik Baekeland, and used in vehicles for steering wheels as well as distributor caps, radiator caps, instrument panels, and door handles. Other types of steering wheels were perforated or covered in leather. Modern day steering wheels are die cast using magnesium or aluminium and are covered with polyurethane foam. Basic wheel sizes are between 14 and 17 inches. Modern cars have many items included on the steering wheel so design considerations include function, safety, durability and appearance. Interesting videos of the production or restoration of steering wheels are available online.

Power Steering

There were early attempts and some patents for power steering but none were put into production. Francis Davis, an engineer with the Pierce Arrow Motor Car Company, located in Buffalo, NY, invented the first hydraulic power-assisted steering in 1926 for automobiles to make them easier to drive.

Twenty-five years later the 1951 Chrysler Imperial was the first to feature hydraulic power steering. A “rack” (a metal bar connected between the front wheels) and “pinion” (a small gear with teeth) hydraulic system was developed, pressured by hydraulic fluids, which made it easier for a driver to turn the steering wheel. Hydraulic power steering was used in most cars from 1950 to early 2000. Electric power steering uses an electric motor that draws energy from the vehicles electrical system and is used on new cars today. There is also a hybrid power system called an “electrohydraulic” system which is not widely used at this time.

Return Address:
Richard Stover
2314 Fonthill Ct.
Langhorne, PA 19047

Some of you are using an email provider that for some reason is blocking some of our separate event and items of interest emails. Please unblock emails from kscpociinfo@gmail.com

Most recently the email addresses that have this blocking are (name)[@dejazzed.com](mailto:(name)@dejazzed.com) and (name)[@ptd.net](mailto:(name)@ptd.net)

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Co-Activities Director: George Burbage
Newsletter Editor: Richard Stover
Chapter Historian: Ralph Keller
Promotional Sales: Bill McIntosh
Display Board: Marlin Guigley

Keystone State Chapter Membership Information
For general information, contact Richard Stover at kscpociinfo@gmail.com

Annual Chapter dues are \$20.00 (2021) payable in **January. It is recommended that you be a member of the P.O.C.I. along with being a member of the Keystone State Chapter. Send dues payable to KSC-POCI, c/o Brenda Steinhauer; 48 Shillington Rd; Sinking Spring, PA 19608**

For Pontiac-Oakland Club International information go to www.poci.org on the internet; or call: 877-368-3454; or email: pociworldhq@aol.com Annual POCI dues are \$45.00 and includes a high quality monthly magazine.