



Award Winning

THE YANKEE NEWS

MAY 2025



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE YANKEE CHAPTER POCI

IN THIS ISSUE:

REMEMBERING
LES WARD

APRIL
MEETING

CAR OF
THE MONTH

THE WAY
IT WAS

UPCOMING
EVENTS

One Fine '69!



Charlie Egirous is the original owner of his 1969 GTO.
Bought new at Wheaton Pontiac in Belmont MA.
Here he is at the Waltham Car Show that he coordinates
every year to benefit the Lions Club charities.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS MESSAGE



I took time to pause last month after hearing the sad news of the sudden passing of long time club member Les Ward. Les was a fixture at our club meetings and shows. It was wonderful to see him at our January meeting at Richardis. Even as his health took a turn, Les was willing and able to join us for this cold weather gathering. We didn't realize it would be our last time seeing him. I began to think of our club. Who are we? What do we do? We are of course a philanthropic organization. We donate thousands of dollars a year to worthy causes like the DAV, Shriners and St Junes. We also love to drive and display our Pontiacs at club meetings, car shows and parades. I think that equally as important is the social component to our club. We enjoy each other's company and talking about cars as well as many other subjects. Les thrived on this aspect of the Yankee Chapter. He loved going to club events. And when he was unable to drive, he found a way to join us. For Les and perhaps most of us, the Yankee Chapter is a connection with our *past, present and future*. Pontiacs and specifically the '57 model year, have always been an important part of Les' past. For the present, Les enjoyed being a part of a group and the comradery of being among people who share your passion. As for the future, I know Les looked forward to our busy year-round club schedule. He had planned to be with us for our Dust-off, Endicott Show and our Charity Show in August. I had the chance to meet Les' family at his wake. His lovely wife Joan, his sons, daughters and their spouses and his grandchildren. They all made similar remarks about Les' love for his Pontiac and the Yankee Chapter. I was heartened to hear his daughter Karen tell me how grateful she felt on the warm welcoming her and her father received at the Endicott Show last July. It was at that point she understood even more fully of the importance of our group to her father. Perhaps we all experience that same good feeling and that is why we are a part of such a wonderful organization. We will miss Les and the other club members who recently passed - Lars Dwyer, Rod Crochiere, Frank Johnson, Bruce Muldoon. We were blessed to have our paths cross with theirs.

Regards,
Andrew Epstein
Newsletter Editor
Digital Media Manager
yankeepociwebmaster@gmail.com



Les Ward
1936-2025

April Meeting Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Andy Epstein

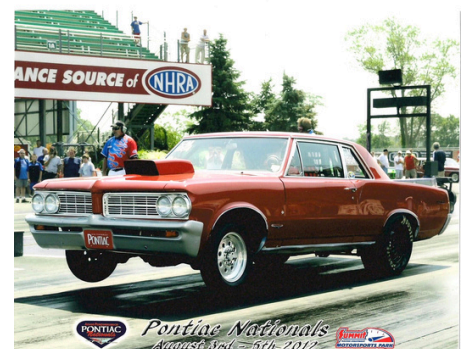
25+ members and guests at our April 13 meeting hosted by Judy and Jim May. Jim and his son Andy did a terrific job clearing off the 4 inches of snow received the prior day for the much needed parking spaces. Club VP Scott Peitzsch chaired today's agenda which included updates on our very busy show season. Big THANK YOU to Judy and Jim May for hosting today's activities! Great to see so many members. After the meeting, took a ride to *High Octane Classics* in nearby Auburn where everyday is a car show.

- 2:05 PM: Meeting called to order by Club VP Scott Peitzsch.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Moment of Silence for Club Member Les Ward who passed away April 2nd.
- We have 144 members. Approx 15 have yet to renew.
- Over 1300 followers on Facebook!
- Motion to donate \$200 to the PVGTO Charity Car Show on June 8. Accepted.
- June 1 - Lil Rhody Show.
- June 8 - PVGTO Show in Springfield. Meet at Ludlow rest stop Mass Pike West by 8 am.
- June 8 - Bay State Motorfest, Cushing Park Framingham.
- June 8 - POCI Convention Louisville, KY.
- July 18 - Ames Tri-Power Nationals Norwalk, OH.
- Aug 9 - 1A/Yankee Chapter Charity Show to benefit St Judes. Pepperell Town Field.
- Aug 24 - Waltham Lions Car Show, Trapelo Rd Waltham.
- 2:15 PM: Meeting Adjourned, Lunch served.



Awesome to see our host, Jim May and his gorgeous 1964 Pontiac GTO at our club meeting last month.

Jim races at New England Dragway, Lebanon Valley and Norwalk. His car is powered by a 472 cubic inch, 7.8 litre engine capable of 685 hp. Jim ran the ¼ last Fall in 9.94 secs at 133 mph at the Central MA Drag Racer event at NED.

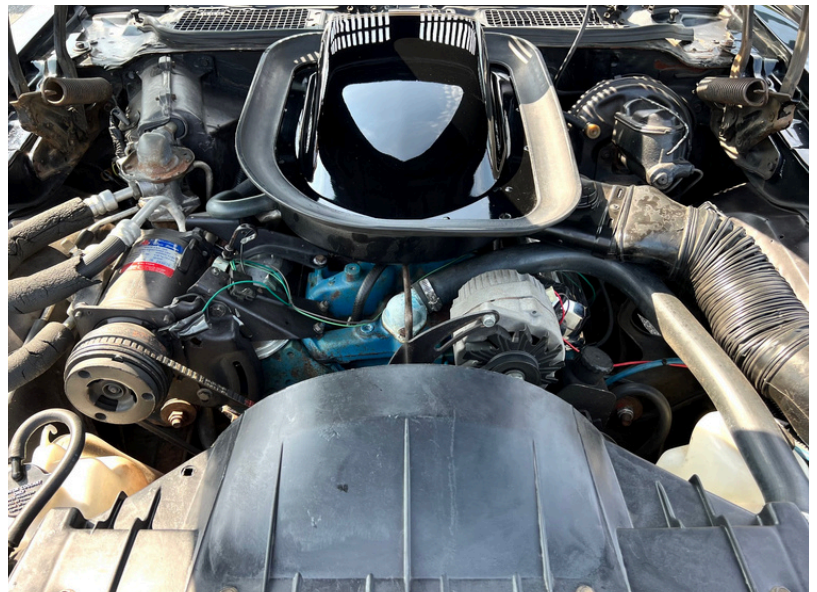


Club Meeting - April 13



CAR OF THE MONTH

Dom Persampieri acquired his beautiful 1976 Trans Am way back in 1982. Built in the Norwood OH plant, this vehicle was then shipped to Damon Pontiac in Abington, MA. This is a very well optioned car that had a sticker price for over \$7,000 (\$39,000 in 2025 dollars.) There are many features to Dom's '76 T/A not the least of which is the potent 455 engine with 4 barrel carb, 4 speed manual transmission and a 3:53 rear end. That would be enough for most enthusiasts, but Dom's car has a lot of added goodies. Other options include power windows, air conditioning, tilt steering wheel, AM/FM radio with 8 track player, 70x15 steel belted radial tires on gold honeycomb rims, soft ray glass, front & rear floor mats, gold interior & exterior appointments, gold stripping, decals and badging. This T/A has the *Special Edition Package*, the *Custom Trim Package* and the *Lamp Group Package*. All those packages wrapped into one hot ride. Dom takes his Trans Am all over the the area. It's a must stop and see at any show he is attending.





GM MARKS OF EXCELLENCE

"HOW SWEET IS WAS"

Frank Tupka, Yankee Chapter Club Member
Instagram: @gm_marks_of_excellence



Before the gas crisis sank demand for gas guzzling V8's.

Before federal regulations could fully strangle the muscle car era.

A time when Pontiac Motor Division was still stamping dreams out of steel.

Cars such as the Trans Am, the special top tier Firebird, introduced in 1969, returning this year with it's legendary shaker hook and 455 ci (7.4 liter) V8.

There was The Judge- the special high performance GTO, returning one final time, or GT-37, the under cover GTO that offered all of its big brother's performance, without (initially) the ire of insurance companies. And of course, the introduction of a totally new Pontiac: Grand Ville- the full sized luxury car aimed at snagging sales from the competition. The ultimate expression of Pontiac luxury, supported on the sales floor by strong foot traffic from Bonneville and Catalina owners.

For those who felt even Grand Ville wasn't distinctive enough, Pontiac offered the Grand Prix, their personal luxury coupe that the Wide Track people brazenly called the first new car to start out as a classic. This was the zenith of Pontiac- their high water mark- a company that would let you order a 400 or 455 CI V8 in just about anything. One that offered stick shift Grand Prix's and variable ratio power steering. Or as their 1971 tag line said: "Pure Pontiac".

Over the following decade, buyers would be dismayed as Pontiacs started showing up in US showrooms with V8 engines made by other divisions. The legendary GTO was retired as was the 455. Grand Ville disappeared after '75. A decade later, Catalina would depart as Bonneville moved to a smaller (G) chassis. These yellow pages remind us that once upon a time, there was an automaker bringing American performance to the masses. Cars within reach for the average person, yet offering legitimate bragging rights- cars that lived up to the promise of their name.

Long before plastic cladding. Long before the Korean built LeMans.

Or corporate engineering. Why was your granddad so disappointed in those 80's cars?

Because he remembered these. Pontiac engines in Pontiac cars, built in Pontiac.





In Memoriam



The Yankee Chapter is sad to announce the recent passing of long time Club Member Les Ward. Les was a loving Husband, Father, Grandfather and a proud Navy Veteran. It was always great to see Les and his beautiful '57 Pontiac at club events. Even as his health took a turn, he found ways to join us. It was especially nice to see Les at our January meeting at Richardi's. We will miss our friend. The Yankee Chapter extends our deepest condolences to Les' wife Joan, his daughters and sons and their families. May his memory be a blessing.



The Yankee Chapter is a proud supporter of these fine organizations



Club members road tripped to the zMax (Charlotte) Dragway in North Carolina a few weekends ago for the *American Rebel Light NHRA 4-Wide Nationals*. Lots of action at this event which included 4 lanes of racing. (l-r) Yankee Chapter VP Scott Peitzsch, Yankee Chapter B.O.D. Member Matt Morana, PVGTOA President, Paul Bourbeau, Yankee Chapter President Mike Green.





Upcoming Events



- **May 18:** Club Dust-Off 10-2 pm. Tucks Trucks 244 Washington, Str Hudson, MA
- **Jun 8:** PVGTO Show 9-2 pm. 244 Tiffany Str Springfield, MA
- **Jun 8:** POCI Convention, Louisville, KY
- **Jun 8:** Bay State Motor Festival. Cushing Park, Framingham, MA
- **Jun 22:** Cruisin Thru Time, 8-3 pm, 21 Beaver Str Milford, MA (Formerly Elm Bank Show.)
- **Jul 10:** Pontiac Day @ Patriot Place. 4pm-Dusk. Get there early.
- **Jul 13:** BSAAC Show at Endicott Estates Dedham, MA
- **Aug 9:** Club Charity Car Show, Town Field Pepperell, MA

Check Out the Club Calendar section of our website for all club events and shows.

www.yankeepoci.org

2 ½ Weeks Until Our DUST-OFF - Hope To See You There!



2025 DUSTOFF SUNDAY MAY 18 10 - 2



**TUCK'S
TRUCKS**
GMC

TucksTucksGMC.com

244 Washington Street
Hudson, MA

Join Us As We Hit The Road!



PVGTOA Show
Springfield, MA
June 8

POCI Convention
Louisville, KY
June 8-12

Adirondack Nationals
Lake George, NY
September 4-7

Pontiac Nationals
Norwalk, OH
July 18-20

Yankee Chapter POCI



Several Yankee Chapter Members will caravan to the **PVGTOA Show** in Springfield, MA. Meet at Ludlow Rest Stop (Mass Pike West) by 8 am and then travel as a group to the show.

PIONEER VALLEY GTO ASSOCIATION'S
24TH ANNUAL
CLASSIC CAR SHOW
 ALL MAKES & MODELS WELCOME!



JUNE 8TH, 2025
9 AM - 2 PM

THE ELKS LODGE #61
 440 TIFFANY ST. • SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108
 GO TO PVGTO.COM FOR DIRECTIONS AND UPDATED INFO

First 100 cars receive Dash Plaques! • Parking on grass
50/50 RAFFLE • Pavillion with Cash Bar, Food & Drink!

CRUISIN' with Bruce Marshall
 Doo-Wop Oldies Country Music

All Proceeds to Benefit:

NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness Western Massachusetts
Shriners Hospitals for Children

SAVE \$5.00 WITH PRE-REGISTRATION ONLINE - PAY ONLINE AT PVGTO.COM
 Send \$15.00 addressed to Joe Riech, 497 Converse St, Longmeadow, MA 01106
 Make payable to PVGTO
\$20 - Registration Admission Day of Show - \$5 for Spectators

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Phone: _____
 Vehicle: _____ Model: _____
 Club Affiliation: _____ Email: _____
 Pre-Reg Only: \$15

Contact: Joe Liquori (413) 531-8057, insurancejoe45@aol.com; Bob LeVierge (413) 896-3826, gtobob69@gmail.com

SCAN TO PAY 

The Bay State Motor Festival will be taking place at Cushing Park in Framingham MA. Special section for Framingham built cars. There will also be a **PONTIAC** section for attending members.

THE BAY STATE MOTOR FESTIVAL
June 8, 2025 • 9 am to 2 pm
Cushing Memorial Park

Celebrating Massachusetts Automotive History & Framingham's 325th Birthday



MOTOR BAY STATE FESTIVAL

- Free spectator admission and parking
- Rare/vintage/classic/late model vehicles
- A special display of vehicles 'Made in Massachusetts'
- Food trucks/vendor booths/history exhibits

More information or register a display vehicle:
baystatemotorfestival.com

Cruisin' thru Time
Antique, Classic & Custom
Car Show
21 Beaver St. Milford, MA 01757
Sunday June 22, 2025 8-3
Formerly: MEDFIELD on the CHARLES

FOOD TROPHIES MUSIC **DJ Cruisin' Bruce Palmer**



www.cruisinthruetime.com

FORTES PARTS CONNECTION **IMPERIAL CARS.com** **JARVIS**

This years show is dedicated to the memory of Yankee Chapter Member Bruce Muldoon.



June 22, 2025 Cruisin' in Time Antique, Classic & Custom Car Show
FORMERLY: MEDFIELD on the CHARLES CLASSIC CAR SHOW
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Top 50 Trophies will be awarded starting at 12:00 Noon. Specialty trophies will be given out during the day. If you win a Specialty Trophy, you are not eligible for any other trophies. Please fill out your window placard and place it on your windshield so a judge can clearly see it.

BRUCE MULDOON MEMORIAL AWARD **ANTONIO JARVIS PRESTIGE AWARD** **TONY JARVIS AWARD**
JOEL WEINSTEIN MEMORIAL AWARD **THE IMPERIAL CUP** **BEST OF SHOW**

Show cars must be on the show field by 10:00 to be judged. Hoods must be open and convertible tops up to be judged.

This year's show is in Memory of and Dedicated to: **BRUCE MULDOON**



'50's LOOK CONTEST
 Come Dressed in your Best '50's look and win Prizes.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Directions: Rt. 109 to Birch St. to Beaver St. (Must use Birch St.)
 Show Field Address: 21 Beaver St. Milford, MA 01757
 Contact: Charlie Harris 781-400-0744 charris655@hotmail.com
 website: www.cruisinthruetime.com

Check for \$20.00 must be received by June 15, 2025 for Pre-Registration. After June 15 \$25.00. NO EXCEPTIONS!
 DO NOT JUDGE CLASS (NJ) FEE IS \$15.00. MUST BE A SHOW VEHICLE.
 Make check payable to: Charlie Harris Mail to: 2 Tyler St. Milford, MA 01757
 PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

REGISTRANT'S NAME: _____
 STREET ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

DO NOT JUDGE FEE \$15.00 PLEASE CIRCLE HERE (NJ) FOR REDUCED RATE
RELEASE STATEMENT: I hereby agree to enter the above described vehicle in the 2025 Cruisin' thru Time Car Show. In consideration of the right and privilege to participate in this event, I acknowledge and understand that I am legally bound and agree to release Charlie Harris or the Cruisin' thru Time Car Show from any and all liability for injuries, damage or loss arising from the entry and attendance in this event.

Signature: _____

Our Leadership Team Consists Of The Following Dedicated Members:

President: [Mike Green](#)

Vice President: [Scott Peitzsch](#)

Treasurer: [Ann Marie Mandarano](#)

Secretary: [Kara Davidson](#)

Newsletter, Digital Media: [Andy Epstein](#)

Board of Directors:

[Mitch Gage](#), [Merle Green](#), [Dave Kantarges](#), [Matt Morana](#), [Ron Senesi](#)

(To contact us, please email yankeepociwebmaster@gmail.com)

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(Click on ad to go to their website)



Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs



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