



SMOKE SIGNALS

Pontiac - Oakland Club International • Est. 1972 • Issue 1 2025

GM Gold • Conversations

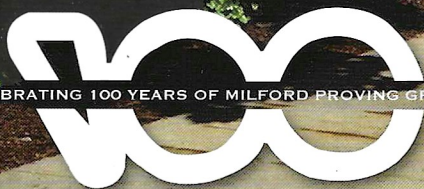
Members Share Their Thoughts

Muscle Car Nationals

Pontiacs Headline The Show

In The Shadows!

Milford Proving Ground 100



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MILFORD PROVING GROUND

CAN AM

Most Comprehensive Research Suggests
What Really Killed the 1977 Can Am!



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RALLY REELS' HEROES, SIDEKICKS & VILLAINS! MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

2024 Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals



story & photos
by Bob Adams

The original 1964 GTO Royal Bobcat Car and Driver magazine test car.

Muscle car nirvana returned to the Chicagoland area this past November at the Donald Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois. Held at a time of year when Midwest temperatures can be somewhat chilly or downright frigid, this annual *paradise of power* never fails to warm the hearts of all who attend.

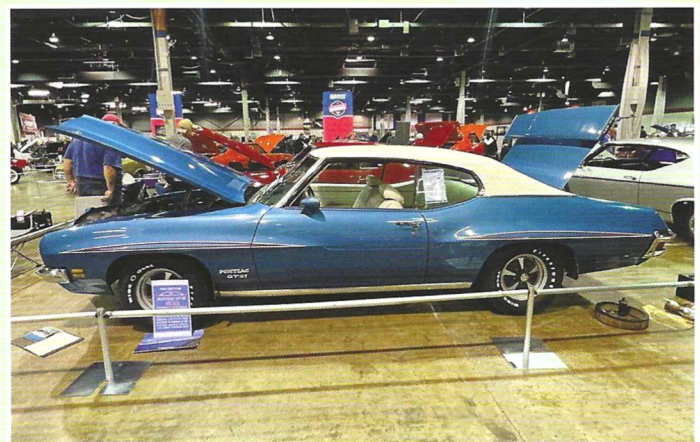
The annual Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals (MCACN), as organized by Bob Ashton and his hardworking staff and crew, brings together over 550 of the finest and rarest muscle cars assembled under one roof during an all-too-brief weekend.

There was no shortage of Pontiac performance on display this year as evidenced by the large assortment of GTO, Firebird, Trans Am, 2+2 and vintage drag race examples positioned throughout the massive facility.

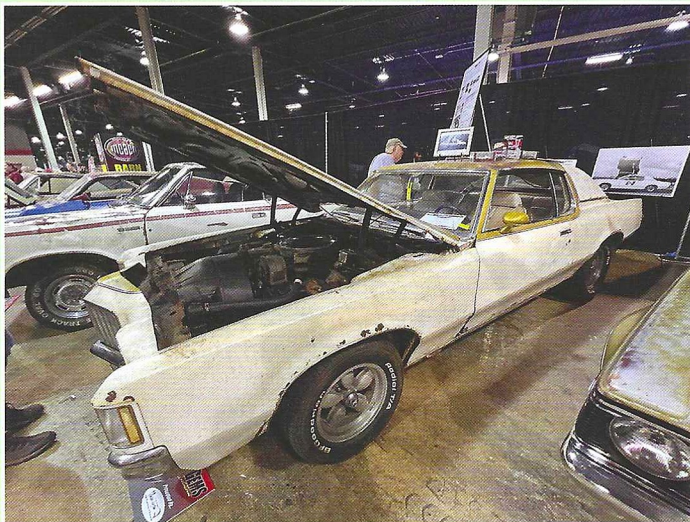
MCACN celebrated the 60th anniversary of our beloved GTO by assembling an extraordinary selection of "Great Ones" just inside the convention hall's main entry. Fans were immediately greeted by the original 1964 Royal Bobcat GTO magazine test car and a large Royal Pontiac dealership sign. The display also featured the special air in-

duction system that Royal Pontiac had fabricated for this storied car.

Flanking the bright red-carpeted aisleway were nine 1970 GTO Judge convertibles — eight of which featured the Ram Air IV engine and one with a 455 engine. Oppo-



An unrestored 1971 GT-37 in Lucerne Blue with a 455 H.O. engine and very rare rear Judge airfoil.



This rare 1972 Hurst SSJ Grand Prix was part of the ever popular "Barn Finds" display.



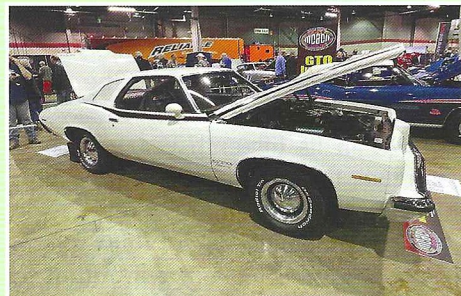
This 1974 SD 455 Formula in Crestwood Brown is believed to be the first '74 Super Duty produced.



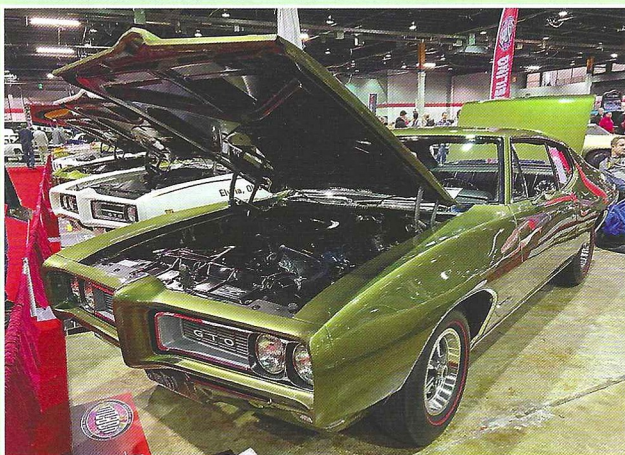
A 1962 SD 421 Catalina looking like it did back in the day.



A 1980 Trans Am in Starlight Black with red hood bird decal and Carmine interior.



Bill Markowski's 1973 GTO.



The mid-year option of a Ram Air II powers this Verdoro Green 1968 GTO.



At this show the ultra rare is common. This 1970 Judge convertible was one of eight on display with an original Ram Air IV engine.

site that lineup was an equally impressive assortment of Ram Air-powered GTOs representing the 1966 through 1972 model years.

If that was not enough, sprinkled throughout the show were still more GTO and Judge models ranging from 1964 through 2006.

Additional focused displays included a "Class of '74" grouping (featuring six SD-455 Formula and Trans Ams along with a 455-powered Formula model), a 2+2 display, a "Malaise Era" display with several late-'70s Trans Ams, plus a Super Stock Lightweight group with a SD-421 Catalina and a rare-as-rare-can-be 1963 SD-421 Tempest station wagon.

Attendees also enjoyed numerous "barn find" survivors and a "Vintage Certification" class where absolute originality is tantamount for judging.

Yet another highly anticipated feature of MCACN offers owners of meticulously restored muscle cars to have a "premier unveiling" of their efforts — a first public debut following an extensive restoration. Pontiac was again well represented here with seven freshly restored examples being revealed throughout the weekend.

Live music, an awards presentation, kids events and guest speakers kept everyone busy throughout the jam-packed schedule.

Now in its fifteenth year, MCACN continues to raise the bar as the premiere muscle car exposition in the country, making it a must-attend event. Next year's event will return to the same venue on November 22-23, 2025. Make plans now to attend! 🏆



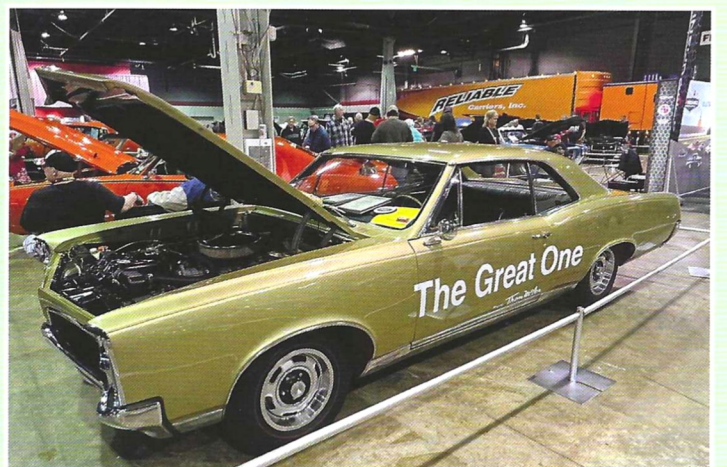
This 1974 GTO wears a special-order color of Starlight Black. It was sold through my family's dealership, Bert Adams Pontiac.



A beautiful 1969 Firebird 400 with Ram Air IV engine in Carousel Red.



1965 2+2 in Fontaine Blue with 421 Tri-Power.



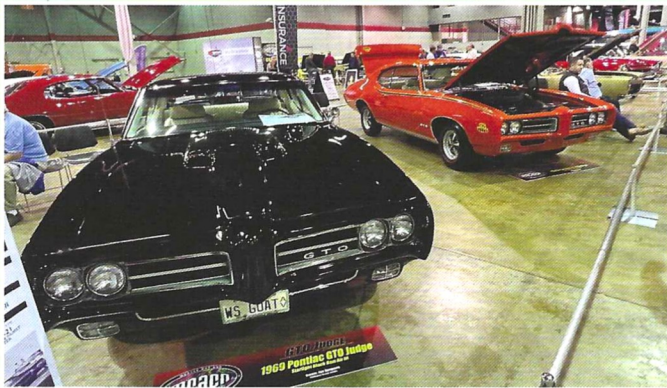
The Great One! An original Thom McAn promotion prize contest 1967 GTO in Tiger Gold.



This 1963 Tempest Station Wagon is one of six produced.



1964 GTO and 1970 GTO Judge, two of many GTOs on display.



Two '69 Judges, one in Starlight Black and the other in Carousel Red.



A 1966 2+2 with 421 and 8-lug wheels.



The red-and-white color combination is striking on this 1959 Bonneville convertible. It features wide whitewalls, a Tri-Tone bucket seat interior and Tri-Power under the hood.