

# Ames Performance Pontiac Nats SD Car Reunion



Volume 9 Number 1 February, 2023

## Reunited with Original Engine: 1968 Ram Air II Firebird



The ONLY All-Pontiac Magazine



### Engine Build:

### Nitemare Performance Ram Air IV 455



### Event Coverage: MCACN 2022

### Short-Deck Intake Manifold Update

# 2022 Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals

**By Don Keefe**

**Photography by the author, Tim Costello & Ann Haines**

Wade Congdon's Carousel Red 1969 GTO Judge is certainly boasting a big upgrade under the hood...



...in the form of a Pontiac Ram Air V with a factory dual-quad intake manifold system. Note the custom Ram Air pan for the dual quads. Wild!

The 2023 Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals, held this past November 19-20 at the Donald C. Stephens Center in Rosemont, Illinois proved to be a fantastic combination of familiar faces and a variety of the finest vintage musclecars, racecars, prototypes and even muscle-era bicycles, like Schwinn Sting Rays, Krates and others.

Keeping the rotation of vehicles fresh enough to encourage people to come back every year is no doubt a challenge, but Managing Partner Bob Ashton and his staff have done a remarkable job. In ad-

dition to such classes as Vintage Certification, which highlights original, unrestored vehicles, some new categories were debuted for 2023, including the "Maple Leaf Muscle" category, which focused on muscle cars either built or delivered to dealers in Canada. Pontiac fans were treated to an unusual and truly fascinating collection of Beaumonts, as well as American-built machines like a Ram Air IV Judge and even one of the eight 1969 Trans Am convertibles. The Barn Finds area was also well-represented by an original 1972 Hurst Grand Prix SSJ.

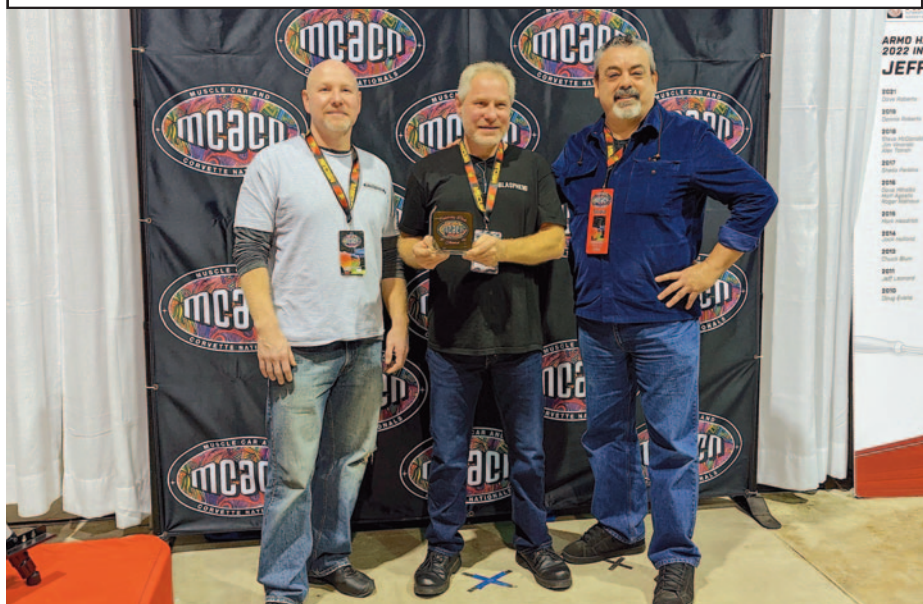
One other collection that garnered an immense amount of interest was the "Malaise Era Muscle" display. Several unusual Pontiacs from that era were featured, including a 400-powered 1973 LeMans GT, a 1973 Grand Am 455, a 350-powered 1974 GTO and a 1980 Turbo Trans Am. It was a treat to see these seldom-seen machines on display. We were especially impressed with the wide variety of Pontiacs on display for this 2022 edition.

The *Poncho Perfection* Editor's Choice Award went to Ed and Brian Sobczyk, who displayed their father's original triple-black 1968 Grand Prix 428 HO. It was great to see such a strong family involvement in the hobby, which was as much a part of the selection as the car itself.

The 2023 MCACN show will be held on November 18 and 19 at the Donald C. Stephens Center. Log onto [www.mcacn.com](http://www.mcacn.com) for updates. We hope to see you there! **PP**



Arnie "The Farmer" Beswick poses with MCACN model Nancy Bartie with the 2023 *Poncho Perfection* Editor's Choice, a 1968 Grand Prix...



...displayed by Edward Sobczyk (center) along with his brother Brian. The big triple black GP is an original 428 HO-powered machine and is their father's original car. It's a family tradition.



This 1970 Ram Air IV GTO Judge convertible is one of just seven built and was part of the Chuck Cocoma Collection. It later sold at Mecum Kissimmee for a whopping \$1.1 Million.



Phil Mitchell's 1964 GTO was restored by Gary Riley and his staff at Level One Restorations and it just glowed.



David Stolp displayed his 1974 455 Super Duty Trans Am and it was correct right down to the Uniroyal steel belted radials. A beautiful machine!



Angelo Dimitri's 1967 GTO convertible featured gorgeous Fathom Blue paint, Rally I wheels and Parchment interior with the optional headrests. Sweet!



There's no bird decal on the hood but there's a 455 Super Duty under it, so Steve Hakola's '73 T/A is more than covered. Honeycomb wheels add a sporty touch.



Roger Clouse's Baltimore-built 1969 Judge has all the right elements, including Ram Air IV, Hideaway headlamps and even a Judge jacket on the coat hook!



Taylor and Cole McMillan's 1969 Firebird convertible features a 350 HO and four-speed. It won the Level One Restoration Shining Star Pick Award. Congrats!



Jeff Yost's 1968 Tempest wagon features a 1969 GTO nose and has actually been a racecar most of its life. Hauling groceries was not its intention!



Angelo Dimitri also displayed a Linden Green 1967 GTO convertible, which featured redlines on Rally I wheels and a black interior with headrests.



Kevin Ross' 1971 GT-37 features a 455 HO and four-speed and ran in the Pure Stock Muscledrags. It has run a best of 13.404 at 107.70 mph.



Chris Vegas' 1974 LeMans Sport features a 455 four-barrel, Year One 18-inch Honeycomb wheels and low-profile rubber, which adds a modern touch.



Bruce Eilenberger's 1969 Trans Am is one of the 697 built and struck an imposing impression. Goodyear Polyglas F70-14 tires add an authentic touch.



Phil Mitchell's pilot-line 1971 Judge was built before regular production to test tooling and build quality. They were often used for promotion and photography.



Pontiacs were well-represented in the Barn Finds area, curated by Ryan Brutt. Ron Novitski's 1972 SSJ features the optional American 200S wheels.



Roger Clouse's 1967 GTO features the top-dog Ram Air 400, four-speed and Safe-T-Track rearend. Rally I wheels with redlines complement the red exterior.



Joseph Kouba's Signet Gold 1967 Firebird 400 featured a black interior and the timeless Rally II wheels, which were new that year.



Thomas Sell's 1967 GTO was restored by MCR and features "Day Two" mods like the Cragar SS wheels complementing stock options like the wood wheel.



Jurgen Stanley's 1970 1/2 Ram Air IV Trans Am was the subject of a MCACN Unveiling and is one of just 88 cars built.



Steven Race brought out his gorgeous Atoll Blue 1970 Judge convertible up from Atlanta to Rosemont. It is one of just 168 built.



Late-model muscle was also very much a part of the action, like the 1994 25th Anniversary Trans Am convertible owned by Michael and Patricia Borowiak.



Jim Wallace's 1961 Ventura was part of the "Big Body Performance" collection and looked spectacular with its tri-tone red interior and 8-lug wheels.



Michael and Paul John Ferri's 1967 428 HO four-speed Grand Prix coupe features a hood tach and 8-lugs. It was part of the "Class of 1967" display.



Ken Plagen's 1967 GTO sport coupe is a gorgeous Day 2 restoration from Chuck and Debbie Woolery's Run Rite Restorations, in Houghton Lake, Michigan.



Looking stunning in triple black, Eric Petosa's 1969 Firebird 400 convertible kept it elegant with white-stripe tires and Code 452 Custom Wheel Covers.



Phil Mitchell's spectacular Gulfstream Aqua 1964 GTO sport coupe features a 389 Tri-Power and color-keyed wheels with "dog dish" caps and redlines.



The "Maple Leaf Muscle" display featured a variety of Canadian variants of American models, like Albert Galdi's '69 Beaumont gasser with a blown big block.



George Pappas' Conroy Pontiac Cheetah 427 is a specialty '67 Beaumont SD much like a Yenko or Royal Bobcat. It boasted 450 horses, a four-speed & 4.10s.



This 1969 T/A convertible is one of eight built and was part of the Maple Leaf Muscle collection as it was delivered to Canada. It's part of the Brothers Collection.



Rob Pilz brought his super-rare 1968 Beaumont Sport Deluxe 396 two-door hardtop all the way from Rocky View County, Alberta, Canada. It is a beauty...



John Wargo's 1967 LeMans is a Pro Touring resto-mod that retains its original persona and isn't a GTO clone. Power comes from a modded LS3.



Michael and Paul John Ferri's 1965 Catalina convertible is not a 2+2 but does have a 421, a four-speed transmission and 8-lug wheels. It's a rare beauty.





Fred Feist's 1972 GTO sport coupe is a rare two-tone with a bench seat and laser side stripe. Power comes from a 400 with a four-barrel.



Larry Serres' '65 GTO convertible features a red interior and is a GTOAA Concours Gold winner. It's a very high-quality restoration with a proven record of wins.



Another rare Canadian in the "Maple Leaf Muscle" collection is this 1967 Beaumont Sport Deluxe 396 owned by The Biase Corporation.



Wolfgang Feist of Landenburg, Pennsylvania displayed his gorgeous white and gold 1972 Hurst SSJ Grand Prix as part of the "Class of '72" display.



Bruno Beltrame's spectacular 1969 Ram Air IV GTO Judge features a Parchment interior and standard fixed headlamps. This one was ordered to go!



Phil Mitchell's 1969 Ram Air IV Firebird is one of just 157 cars built. It features the popular Verdoro Green and black vinyl top and interior combination.



Randy Pribyl showed off his 1969 Ram Air III GTO at MCACN. We really like the Year One 18-inch wheels and redline radials. It's a beauty!



The "Malaise Era Muscle" display saw some great examples of late 1970s machines, like Gary Roeske's 1979 10th Anniversary/Daytona Pace Car Trans Am.



John Wysocki's Midnight Green 1969 Judge convertible is a gorgeous and correct example of the 108 cars built. Check out the Goodyear white stripes!



One of the more unusual vehicles in the "Malaise Era Muscle" display was this 1973 Grand Am, which features 455 power. It's owned by Elliott & Terry Ek.



Mark and Joyce Hodge's eye-grabbing 1972 455 HO GTO sport coupe returned to MCACN for a second time. Scott Tiemann handled the superb resto.



Rare when new and hardly ever seen today, Steve and Pam Courter's 1973 LeMans GT features 400 power and was part of the "Malaise Era Muscle" display.



Tim Smith's gorgeous black 1974 GTO is one of just 7,058 cars built. It was part of the "Malaise Era Muscle" display and it fit the spirit perfectly.



Ken and Theresa Brown's 1980 Trans Am features the top-level 301 Turbo V-8 and finned turbine wheels. The red with red velour interior takes you right back.



No "Malaise Era Muscle" display would be complete without a 1977 Can Am and Michael Lamberth brought his all the way from Phoenix, Arizona.



Greg Krempl's 1969 Trans Am was restored by Muscle Car Restorations, Inc., who added some mods under the hood and chassis for better performance.



In addition to his duties at Mecum Auctions, John Kraman also fronts the blues rock trio known as "Redline 7000" and they performed at MCACN. Those guys really rocked the house!