



*April 2017*



# CLASSIC CHRONICLE

ABN 12681460321

# '55 '56 '57 Chevrolet Club Of Australia Incorporated



*2017, The 60th Anniversary  
Of the 1957 Chevrolet*



*Official newsletter of the '55 '56 '57 Chevrolet Club of Australia*

# Club Merchandise



Club Cap \$20.00

If you would like to order any club merchandise, please contact Frank Mamone on Ph. 0408 222 243 or email him at [vicepresident@567chevclub.com.au](mailto:vicepresident@567chevclub.com.au)



Bowling style shirts  
Mens Shirt \$45.00

ABN No. 12681460321

Incorporation No. Y2682947

**Official 567 Chev Club Website**  
[www.567chevclub.com.au](http://www.567chevclub.com.au)

## MEETINGS

2nd Tuesday of each month  
Drag-Ens hot rod club  
17 Childs Rd Chipping Norton 7.00pm  
Members, family & visitors  
welcome

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership due 1st July  
cost, \$50 per annum



## CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 3233  
Austral 2179

**Bank Details for EFT Banking**  
Commonwealth Bank (CBA)  
BSB # 06 2233  
AC # 1006 7583

Please fill in receipt with your  
Name/Membership number.

### Disclaimer:

The content of this magazine are not necessarily condoned, endorsed or agreed with by other members, committee, or the magazine sponsors.



# ***CLUB COMMITTEE***

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# PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hi members,

We would like to congratulate Eric & Stacey Jones on the arrival of their beautiful baby daughter Olivia born on the 4th of March 2017.

It is only 3 weeks away until the Kiama run. It is coming up very quickly and it is always a pleasure to see so many of our club members there and having a great time together.

The 3G run is on the 7th of May 2017. Please refer to our website or the club magazine for all the details.

Please let Gary Wright know if you will be attending the 3G run.

Just a reminder in regards to the upcoming Rosehill Hot Rod and Custom Auto Expo which is on the 14th & 15th of May 2017 to make sure that you have submitted your entry forms.

I would also like to welcome our two new club members Bryn Miller who owns a 57 Nomad and Robert Cavasini for who owns a 57 2 Door Post.

See you all at our upcoming club BBQ!!!

Regards  
John Fenato



# MINUTES

Minutes of GENERAL Meeting for No.495 of the  
55'56'57' Chevrolet Club Of Australia INC.



Held on Wednesday 14/03/ 2017 at Drag-Ens Clubhouse Milperra.

Meeting opened at: 8.03pm

Apologies: Terry Burrows

Attendance: 32 members

Visitors: Bryn Miller ('57 Nomad), Robert Cavasini ('57 2 Door Post)

New Member: Bryn Miller ('57 Nomad), Robert Cavasini ('57 2 Door Post)

Meeting Chaired by: John Fenato President

Present - Committee members John Fenato, Gary Wright, Ben Marks, Bevan Joseph and Frank Mamone.

Minutes Read /Business Arising from previous Minutes for February - None.

Accepted: Ken Taylor. Seconded: Joe D'Alfonso

## Treasurers Report:

Monthly financial report shown to members on request as well as being witnessed by a minimum of two members at each meeting, one being a committee member and the other being a general member. Different members will be asked to look at the accounts at each meeting. Accepted by Peter Bryen and Stewart Campbell and Frank Mamone. The funds are as follows: Monies In \$1,415.00 Monies out \$124.95. Available funds \$44,950.99.

## GENERAL

### Mail

Letter thanking our club from "Make a Wish" Foundation from D Miller, attaching a brochure and invitation to their Gala Dinner 22/07/2017 (\$900 per table of 10 people)

Pony Express – Mustang club (February)

Email from Airah Park Hotel – advertising a venue to stay at in the future

QLD Chevroletter (February)

Camaro/ Firebird (January)

NSW Corvettes

NSW Chev Car Club (February)

Chevroletter WA (Dec, Jan and Feb)

Email from the Crookwell Potato Festival Invitation to attend.

### Constitution

Garry Tant has issued a modified version that takes in all new laws and rules that must be obeyed as a club to exist and to be run in accordance with the "Dept. of Fair Trading" bylaws. GT has now registered it with the Dept. of fair Trading.

### Camden Car Show

An alternative charity was originally put forward by Aldo in December for the CCIA (Children's Cancer Institute Australia). They help with cancer research at the Children's Hospital. This meeting was to list the final charities being put forward, and Aldo was not present at the meeting to discuss. The Second Charity is "One Meal" nominated by Garry Tant. More info forthcoming in future. Thirdly "Make a Wish" Foundation as per 2016 Show



# MINUTES

Gary W requested that they present their case to enable us to make a decision as to whether we wish to support them, by the April meeting. We have to finalize who will be supported by the next meeting to allow for the Flyer to be printed. Question from the floor---Why can't we support two charities? By John Neske. The committee will consider this request and vote and report outcome at April's general meeting.

At the last show there were 28 trophies handed out and the quality was well received. It was voted that we continue with the quality and number of trophies. All of the sponsors supporting the day's events will be contacted for a continuance of the event for 2017. More Camden Car Show raffle tickets to be sold and will be printed earlier. There will be a requirement that members must sell at least two books each. Members are to be notified in due course.

The Flyer is to be designed by Steve Barks and printed early, advertising more events. It will also incorporate the sponsors as an acknowledgement. Pre-Entry payments will be introduced for this show, GT will design an entry form.

## Events and Club invitations

Read out by Peter Bryen and featured in the month's Magazine.

## CLUB SANCTIONED EVENTS

21st-24th April-- Kiama weekend away has 2 spaces left, John has announced that any members who want to go, please pay the deposit of \$100.00 ASAP. The weekend costs are \$600.00 for 4 nights for the accommodation. There is a total of 24 self-contained cabins booked, a Chicken & Prawn night @ \$15.00 per head and a casual run is organized. New members invited. The additional rooms if not sold will be handed back by next week.

For other sanctioned club events, please see the RUN list in the March email and Magazine. A reminder for HCRS users, you must have the Current Month's Magazine in the car when it is being used for runs as part of the travel conditions, as well as the Log book signed Before you commence your trip!

A quick look at upcoming events, generally all year round:

2nd Sat Cars under the stars.

1st Sat Smeaton Grange

2nd Sunday Cars & Donuts - Penrith Panthers

6th -7th May Wings Over Illawarra

## 14th-15 May Rose Hill Hotrod & Custom Car Show by Andy's Resto's

Venue -Rose Hill gardens. We have reserved 8 spots

\$1,500 prize for best display.

Banner to be looked at.

Club has 6 sails that will be used. Purchasing of Black & White vinyl flooring sheets to be looked at from Costco. Stored at JF's place.

JF to call Andy to confirm site location to try to arrange for a better display area.

Investigation of a banner and new signs as the old one is looking tired and marked etc.

Member '58 Peter Bryen will be arranging a special display of 50's-60's drive in memorabilia

We have the following going to display: "57's Ben Marks, Joe D'Alfonso, Terry Burrows, and '56's Joe Oliveri, '55's Brian D'Alfonso and John Fenato.



# MINUTES

22nd & 23rd July 2017 Motorex Venue – Homebush Olympic Dome Members showing their cars 6 x '57's have entered Parking outside \$40.00 and that includes entry on the day.

3 "G" May Run 7th May. \$15 per car, meeting at GW's place 9.30am. Travelling to Garry Foreman's place for lunch and the afternoon. The arrangements will be sorted out. Cost \$15.00 per car. 20 members are coming

Please notify GW with numbers from other clubs that are attending.

## Rooty Hill RSL Elvis Festival

Via Grizzly Adams there was a meeting held and a further meeting that must be held with JF and GW to settle the requirements of the RSL and our club's expectations. The report to be tabled at committee level for discussions. It was put to the members if the club wants to arrange for the show at the RSL club, we have been invited and given the whole rights for the running of the event. Entry will be free for volunteers. There were 15 members listed as attendees and volunteers for parking, judging, and general organizational skills. Our club is holding this event as a money raiser to assist the bottom line for the club's funds. Proposed fee \$15-\$20.00 on the day. 150 cars on the day is expected. Our Club keeps all entry fees as the RSL club will make more in club sales of drinks and food and pokies etc.

Pre-Paid entry will be looked at.

Judging on a limited basis, with maybe 10 trophies with many varieties or classes. It was put to a general vote and it was agreed to participate, to promote the club for the 60th anniversary of the '57

## Magazine and Insertions

The magazine will feature a BUY and SELL section in future, not limited to cars. If you have anything to sell or want to buy please send Ben a request etc.

## Raffle

Raffles were drawn and prizes were won by Rick May, Frank Mamone and Bryn Miller

## Birthdays

Congratulations to Eric and Stacey for the birth of their daughter "Olivia" last week.

## Meeting BBQ

Members should confirm attendance so catering can be arranged. We had enough for the night and no left overs taken home.

## CVS & HCRS Schemes

Please remember to carry the club magazine in your car as well as the 60 Day log Book. It is a requirement for the scheme to exist legally. No Log Book or Magazine =FINE!!! Please sign the log book if you are on HVRS.. No need to sign log book for CVS if it's a club run.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Bevan Joseph

Secretary

*The Classic Chronicles*





4 April: Eric Jones - member #10

8th April: Paul Contos - member #111

15 April Chris Lowger - member #27

## NEW MEMBERS

The '55, '56, '57 Chevrolet Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Warren Gonano - '68 Camaro

Paul Contos - '35 Ford Coupe

Bryn Miller - '57 Chev Nomad

Roberto Cavasinni - '57 Chev 2dr Post





G'Day Everyone,

Welcome to the April edition of the '55 '56 '57' Chev Club Magazine.

I received an email about this years Cooly Rocks from club member Andrew Trollope. Cooly rocks are saying they are releasing group/club car parking spots for this year on the Monday. Andrew wanted to know if the club has any other members that are going and interested in booking a spot. Need a minimum of 5 cars. Please let Andrew or myself know if you are going and would like to go as a group.

If you like Hot Rods and Firearms well this guy certainly has them! Quite the collector with some obviously deep pockets! Check it out here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=U9XFqL-3KfU>

The new location for Cars Under the Stars at Sydney Dragway was a great night out. I went with my wing-girl Georgia, and met up with Dave Gouci and his kids Harrison and Jessie. We saw a number of other club members, as well as our own 'El Presidente, Mr Fenato. It's an evening event from 5-10pm so it's an early night and a good family environment. The variety and quality of the cars was great to see. The next one is on 8th April so come and support a good cause and check out some great cars too.

Enjoy this months magazine and I hope to see you at the next meeting, Tuesday 11th April @ 7pm.

Happy Cruising

Ben



# Upcoming Events



## 1st Saturday night each month

All American Mystery Cruise Night. 7pm Parramatta Pools car park, O'Connell St.

## 2nd Saturday night each month

'Cruise & Dine Night' - Hungry Jacks Cnr Box Rd & Port Hacking Rd, Sylvania. From 5.30pm

'Grange Classic Garage' - at Euro Cafe, 24 Anzac Av, Smeaton Grange. 4pm-late.

## 1st Sunday Morning each month

'Cars & Coffee' - Kellyville Plaza, 40 Wrights Rd Kellyville. 7am to 9am

## 2nd Sunday each month

'Cars and Doughnuts' - Krispy Kreme, Panthers carpark, Mulgoa Rd, Penrith. 8am

## 4th Sunday each month

'Shifters Cruise' to various places south of Sydney. Call Bob for a run sheet: 0433 945 350

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**1st April** All American Mystery Cruise night - Parramatta Pool Carpark, O'Connell St, 7pm.

**2nd April** Kool Kruisers Charity Car Show. Liverpool Catholic Club, Cnr Joadja & Hoxton Parks Rd's from 7.30am. . \$10 entry. Call John for more info: 0417 401 402

**8th April** Cruise & DineNight - Cnr Box Rd & Port Hacking Roads, Sylvania from 5.30pm

**8th April** 'Cars Under the Star's pre '88 Event' - Sydney Dragway, Ferrers Rd Eastern Creek 5-10pm

**15th April** 2017 Corvette Nationals, Novotal, Railway St Rooty Hill.

**21st-24th April** Kiama, Club weekend away.

**22nd April 'Oz Nats'**. Sydney Motorsport Park, Brabham Dr, Eastern Creek. 9am-10pm

**23 April** 44th Annual GM Display Day- Museum of Fire, museum drive, Penrith.

**23rd April** Oakville Bush Fire Brigade Family Day and Car Show

Pitt Town Sporting Club. 139 Old Pitt Town Rd. Pitt Town.

**25th April** 'Anzac Day Hot Rod Show & Shine, The Colonial Hotel, 156 Victoria St, Werrington. 8am-2pm.

**6th May** Oran Park Festival Motor Show, Oran Park Anglican College, Central Av & Peter Brock Dr, Oran Park

**7th May** 3 GGG Run. See flyer.

**6th-7th May** 'Wings Over Illawarra'

**14th-15th May** 'Hot Rod & Custom Auto Expo' - Rose Hill. 9am to 5pm.

**21st May** 'Blast From the Past', Rock n Roll Picnic, Victory Parade & The Boulevarde, Toronto.

**7th-11th June** 'Cooly Rocks' - Coolangatta

**2nd July** - Blacktown Swap Meet

**22nd-23rd July** 'Motorex' - Sydney Olympic Park - Homebush

**23rd July** 'Life Choices' 2017 Track Day Eastern Creek



# ALL AMERICAN MYSTERY CRUISE NIGHTS

RAFFLE  
PRIZES



Trophy for  
CRUISER  
of the month!



Camaro Firebird Owners Club of Australia Inc.

## INVITATION

September 3, October 1, November 5,  
December 3, February 4, March 4,  
April 1 & May 6

Meeting Point  
Parramatta  
Pool  
Carpark  
O'Connell St  
Parramatta

We will be meeting at Parramatta at 7pm  
and leaving shortly after for a destination  
to be announced prior to departure.  
Come along and cruise with fellow enthusiasts.

For further enquiries phone 0419 695 301  
In case of wet weather the cruise  
will be postponed until the next weekend

Cruise & Dine Night  
'SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH'

Cnr Box Rd & Port Hacking Road

Bring your...  
**Hot Rod**  
CLASSIC  
Custom or Muscle Car  
ANY CAR OF INTEREST

A Casual  
Meet & Greet  
for  
HOT ROD & CUSTOM  
Car Enthusiasts  
From - 5:30pm

- Kids Entertainment
- Raffle Tickets Sold From 5.30 - Drawn 7.00

14th Jan 17	8th July 17
11th Feb 17	12th Aug 17
11th Mar 17	9th Sept 17
8th April 17	14th Oct 17
13th May 17	11th Nov 17
10th June 17	9th Dec 17

Travel Permit  
2017: T17-110

PLEASE MINIMISE  
NOISE ON LEAVING  
- Alcohol Free Zone -

# KOOL KRUISERS ANNUAL CHARITY CAR SHOW

SUNDAY 2nd APRIL 2017

AT LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CLUB

Corner Joadja and Hoxton Park Roads

Classic cars hot rods street machines

Show cars \$10 • Trophy's • Lucky entries

Give away bags for the first 100 cars • Trade

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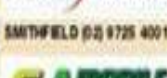
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All cars welcome • CALL EARLY TO BOOK YOUR CLUB IN

Enquiries Ph: John 0417 401 402

EVENT PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



If rained out this event will take place ON THE 9th April

For further information email: [nj.hamilton7@mail.com.au](mailto:nj.hamilton7@mail.com.au)

Poster proudly created by Tony Wolf & Bob Priddy Ph: (02) 8842 1114

02 4648 5553



Proudly Hosting

The 29th Corvette Nationals

Show and Shine Day at Museum of Fire, Penrith

Saturday 15th April 2017, 9.30am to 2.30pm

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 of Cars & Commercial

**Sunday 23rd April 2017**  
 Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Oakland, Pontiac, Vauxhall, Opel, Bedford, Holden 48 & FJ Only  
**Location: The Museum of Fire**

**Museum Drive Penrith NSW 2750**  
 Gates Open 8am, Exit from 2pm  
**DISPLAY VEHICLES \$15.00**

Enquiries: GM Day Committee of NSW  
 Ron Fraser 0432 897 757 • Hydraulic Loading Ramp On-Site

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 139 OLD PITT TOWN RD, PITT TOWN  
 Shows and Displays Starting at 10am.

\$10 ADULTS \$5 KIDS  
**DONT MISS OUT!**

**COLONIAL HOTEL** 156 Victoria St Werrington NSW

EARLY FORD STREET ROD CLUB presents:  
**ANZAC DAY SHOW & SHINE**  
 Tuesday April 25th 2017

**ASRF**  
 Sanction No: S17/14

**Car Show Entrants: \$10**  
**General Public: Gold Coin**  
 Top Place Trophies  
 Live Music & Kids Activities  
**BBQ Breakfast from 8am plus Full Bistro for Lunch**

Enquiries:  
 Michael: 0416 139 742 John: 0417 248 504 Colonial Hotel: 9623 1384

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**CHARITY RAFFLE GREAT PRIZES SUPPORTING:**  
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 bear cottage



2017 3 GGG Run, **'55'56'57 Chevrolet Club** of Australia Incorporated Sunday 7th May



It has been 10 years since the 3 Garry's have organised A 3 GGG run, and we are looking forward to doing it again. Nothing has changed on how we did it in the past, just that we have all got a bit older!

Morning tea will be at Gary & Kay Wright's 67 Bowman Ave, South Camden @ 10am. Followed by lunch at Garry & Brenda Foreman which is at Tahmoor (directions will be given on the day) Don't forget to bring a picnic blanket and a chair on the day.

\$15 per car Please RSVP for catering and kids goody bags. Gary Wright: 0409 55 56 57 or email: garynkay@bigpond.com

**ORAN PARK FESTIVAL** SATURDAY MAY 6TH 10 AM - 3 PM

**MOTOR SHOW**  
Show open 10am - 3pm

Calling all motor Enthusiasts REGISTER YOUR CAR or BIKE on the DAY for the competition.

**ENTRY FEE IS ONLY \$10 PAY ON THE DAY.**

Muster onsite before 9:30 am.

**TROPHIES TO BE WON**

★ Best car ★ Best bike ★ People Choice ★ Entrants Choice ★ and many more....

Any enquiries ring Nick Gontas PH 0402219634 nascoparts@gmail.com Oran Park Anglican College 60 Central Ave Oran park Town, entry via gate on Shannon Way



Proudly present

**BLAST FROM THE PAST**

Rock and Roll Picnic  
Car & Bike Show 'n Shine  
Music, Dancing, Amusements,  
Food & Market Stalls

Sunday May 21st  
10am to 3pm  
Toronto - Victory Parade & The Boulevard

blastfromthepastpicnic.com.au For information phone 49504799 or email lakesidemarketing@lect.com.au





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Hot Rod & Custom Auto Expo**

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MEET 'N' GREET

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BAILEIGH WORKSHOP

**TOM KELLY**  
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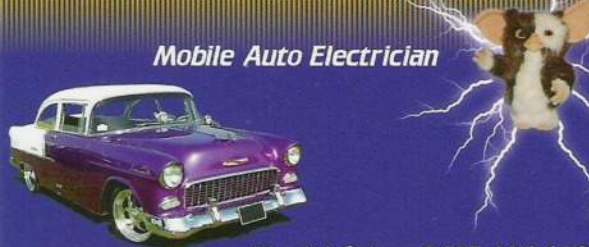
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Daniel Grima 0405 624 162



# FOR SALE

## 1967 Chev Factory Convertible For Sale



Restoration by Team Fenato...

Visit [www.Impala67.com](http://www.Impala67.com)

Contact Larry 0407001967



## 1955 CHEVROLET



- 327 Chev engine
- Turbo 400 gear box
- All running gear recently replaced including diff, 355 ratio
- Billet steering column - power steering
- Lowered an inch and a half - front and rear
- 'Like' leather seats interior (please note tear on drivers seat shown in photo)
- Car has some minor scratches
- Smoke free
- Drives as new car. Very well maintained. \$50,000.

Any queries please phone Harry 0418 296 289. Away from computer so unable to reply to emails.





## FOR SALE

350 Chev stroked to 383.

550hp to flex plate

Complete from Carby to sump

Contact Frank Vitacco on 0427 420 423



## FOR SALE.

1956 6 cylinder original air cleaner.\$30.

1957 6 cylinder original air cleaner. May fit some 1958. \$30.

New old stock, first and reverse sliding gear, made in USA, suite 3 speed manual's, 1955 to 1962.\$70.

Available Padstow or club meetings.

Ken, 040 3510 439.

## FOR SALE

- 4 x 1957 rims sandblasted / painted black with very old remington whitewalls

- Handbrake parts

- Front suspension coils :- standard height & 2" lowered

- Reverse light wiring harness stock

- Demister duct for american dash

- Used windscreen

- Stock belair steering wheel in original condition

- Power steering bracket to chassis

- Speedo cable for powerglide

- Treadle vac brake pedal bracket

- Hood bar original has been rechromed

- Used flashes in original condition (4 door h/top)

- Stock interior mirror (rechromed)

- Original temp gauge

All parts for LHD

I would prefer someone to take the whole lot in a package deal / if interested

please call and discuss John Nesci on 0410 132 873

## FOR SALE

Bedfor Rat Rod(Unsure of year model, estimate 1939 - 1943)

· 350 stroker 383

· Approx. 500+ horsepower

· 350 Turbo gear box

· Fully rebuilt jag front end - including : power steering

· XR8 Ford diff - cut down to fit procomp 12in" rims , 12in" Mickey Thompson wheels.

· 7in front wheels

· Stereo, CB Radio

· Full registration NSW - October 2017

· Original Bedford Chassis

Fully Engineered

Any queries please phone Harry 0418 296 289



# FIELD FIND: TIME CAPSULE 1957 CHEV GASSER

Story from Hot Rod Network.



How can I possibly start explaining this drag racing treasure, an unmolested time tunnel to the heyday of the straight-axle gasser wars?

Maybe I can start by telling you it has survived 55 years with almost all of its original parts. That the parts alone are a virtual laundry list of period-correct hard-core drag racing components of the early '60s and '70s. Or maybe we should just start with a young man by the name of Charlie Proite.

In 1957, Charlie plucked a low-mile '57 Chevy Bel Air two-door hardtop from a local Milwaukee, Wisconsin, dealership and put only 3,000 miles on the clock before heading off for a tour of duty in Korea. After returning home, he transformed the car into a 10-second, A/GS battle axe that ran with the likes of Stone Woods and Cook, and Arnie "the Farmer" Beswick.

The Bel Air saw its first action in 1960 at Great Lakes Dragaway in Wisconsin. Charlie set up the car with most of the heavy-duty parts available in 1960. He chose a beefy three-quarter-ton six-lug rear axle from a '57 Chevy truck and mounted to it a set of (now ultra-rare) magnesium small-window Halibrand kidney beans.



The car was completely gutted. Most of the firewall was removed for the 25 percent engine setback, the front suspension was torched off, and a fully boxed and shortened subframe was created to house one of the trickiest features on the car: a heavily modified and dropped '32 Ford straight axle with drilled backing plates and shortened hairpins mounting a pair of Mickey Thompson Raders.

Back in 1960, Pontiac was producing very powerful production V-8 torque monsters. So naturally, Charlie dropped in a 389 Pontiac fitted with a GMC blower and Hilborn two-port injection, backed by a four-speed BorgWarner transmission. The windshield was radius-cut for the blower scoop, and the '57 was dropping into the 10s at 125 mph.



After grenading the 389, Charlie swapped in a 421 Super Duty with the same supercharger setup and raced it again for years before it was sold as a roller sometime in the '60s. Charlie Proite then went on to campaign the very first beer-sponsored drag car, the Pabst Charger nitro Funny Car.





Enter the next owner....

As the story goes, Duane Hanson bought the car from Charlie in around 1969, fitted it with a '67 Pontiac GTO 400, and topped it off with a dual-quad Offenhauser intake and two AFB Carter carburetors. He then gave the car the name "Superstition," painted it on the car's doors in traditional silver leaf, plugged in a B&M Hydro-Stick from a '56 Olds, and went racing.

The car terrorized various Midwest tracks and consistently ran in the 10s before it was sold in the mid-1970s to a man named Ken Richter. Ken essentially picked up where Duane left off, with the exception of a few small details. Duane had painted his name on the driver-side door. Ken quickly wet-sanded off the name "Duane," switched out the old driver seat with a used bucket from a '66 Volkswagen fastback and, like Duane, was on his way to the track.



Over the years, Ken and his brother shared driving duties until the Hydro-Stick developed a problem in 1978. That's when Ken decided the car and racing took up too much of his money and time. The '57 sat outside at Ken's house in Milwaukee for years and eventually made its way up to Green Bay, where it was stored behind a shed in a collector's field of vintage cars.

The next chapter of the car's story came about through my own chance encounter.

My '63 Cadillac was in need of parts, so I looked up a collector I'd met at a car show. Driving into his yard, the lot looked no different from many I'd seen before. After asking permission to browse, I started down the first row, took a right, and there it was: "Powered by Pontiac" emblazoned in bold letters on the front fender of a '57 Chevy. I could hardly believe my eyes.



I knew instantly that this was a rare animal. Walking closer, looking around it and underneath, I smiled to see all the markings of a vintage gasser: straight axle, radiused wheelwells, fiberglass front nose, and old-school decals. The discovery seemed almost surreal.



The lot owner told me the car was being stored for Ken Richter, and I didn't waste any time locating him. A deal was made; the car was purchased. My next quest was to gather details about the machine, and Ken helped get me started. I wanted to learn about its past history, missing parts, anything authentic I could find to reassemble this incredible piece of rolling history and the story behind it.

Once it was back in my shop, I was pleasantly surprised to find almost all the original parts crammed inside the body, along with a raccoon's nest and 36 years of dirt and dust. My excitement grew every time a part was pulled out that helped fill in the jigsaw puzzle.

I desperately wanted to get ahold of Charlie Proite, who could answer so many more of my questions. After weeks of research and a lot of determination, I finally got a phone call to the man, who was then in his eighties, and he revealed to me that the car was an original, A/GS drag car.



Wanting to put the car back in its proper historical form, I sourced an early-period GMC blower unit to put back on the car, freshened the Pontiac 400, and reincarnated one of the baddest surviving original drag cars in the country today.

But there is undoubtedly another side to this story. While spending nearly every day with the '57, I had the opportunity to speak to and learn from a handful of men who actually lived and raced in the Gasser Wars era. Sitting down and listening to their stories made me appreciate early racing even more.

These men had no computers or cell phones, no mail order parts warehouse. They only had gas and acetylene torches, primitive tools, poorly lit and cramped garages. They worked with factory engines, and they flat-towed their machines to the track.

After firing up the car for the first time since 1978, I invited Ken Richter to my shop to hear the car run again. He rolled down my driveway in his electric wheelchair. I noticed that he parked it only a few feet away from the exhaust.

"Ready, Ken?" I called back. "Yup," he responded.

I hit the go button, switched on the Vertex magneto, and that familiar sound once again put a smirk on Ken's face. After I shut down the car, Ken looked at me and said, "There's nothing like the sound of that big-block Pontiac through those zoomies. Nothing.



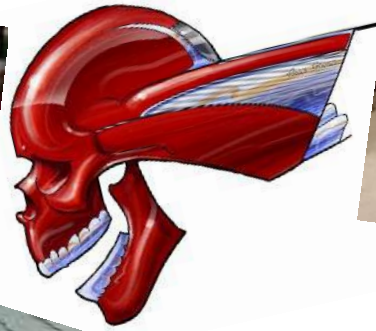
"Y'know," Ken continued, "I always thought that car had a soul." And he was right.

After Ken left, I sat in my garage for a long time and studied the car, its stance, the patina, the name Superstition. It's pure nostalgia, I thought. I kept looking. The radical setback and the hardtop trim, the beat-up fiberglass and the chrome peeling off the hairpins. And who can deny that supercharged Poncho? It all made complete sense.

Ken had confirmed what I had felt all along. The car has a soul. It tells a unique story, and if it had a voice, it would say, "I was there in 1960 tearing up Midwest racetracks, and now I'm back."



*When the car just ain't enough!*



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