

## GM Powertrain Car Show a Family Event

by Gerald Scott

"You've got to understand that the parking lot doesn't look like this every day – today is a special event."

Or so said a GM Powertrain employee to his children as they were exiting the Powertrain headquarters building in Pontiac and heading toward the employee car show.

"This is our 11th annual employee show here," said GM Powertrain spokesman Tom Read as employees embraced the annual car show, which this year had a drag racing and car engine theme.

One GM Powertrain employee really enjoying the show was Denise Myers, a cost engineer, who was there with her husband.

Myers was exhibiting her 1998 Corvette Indy pace car while her husband had his 1996 Dodge Viper Indy pace car on display.

Myers said that there was a recent reunion at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for pace cars and that they brought theirs – you could even run the cars on the fabled track, she said.

"You were allowed to get up to 70 mph but you could actually reach 90 mph," she recalled. "Plus, you looked good driving it."

Myers also has a 1989 Trans Am pace car at home.

"It belonged to Kathy George from the Indy Speedway George family, we have paperwork that says she owned it for a year," Myers pointed out.

The employee car show gives employees just like Myers the opportunity to show off classic cruisers like hers.

Indeed, Myers is a 34-year veteran GM employee who began her career at the old Chevrolet Gear & Axle plant in

Hamtramck, which later became American Axle. She worked at the VEC in Warren for awhile before returning to Pontiac.

Also, it might be pointed out that on her husband's 1996 Dodge Viper, the interior includes an autograph from retired GM executive Bob Lutz, who, of course, was at Chrysler in the late 1980s when the Viper debuted as a concept vehicle before Viper production in 1992.

Elsewhere at the employee car show, the children of GM employees were having fun at the UAW-GM exhibit driving small slot cars while even younger kids had small gravity cars that they were testing.

Then there was Gary Conley, an Illinois small engine builder who was guest of honor at the show, together with his display of the types of small engines that he builds.

Conley is owner of Conley Precision Engines, Inc., a Glen Ellyn, Ill. specialty firm. He was greeting GM employees at his booth and signing autographs and talking shop about engine displacements.

"On display is one of the world's smallest production V8 engines, the operative here is that it's a production engine and not one of a kind," he said.

"I build them in runs of 40-50-60-70 engines at a time. It is a full, functioning V8 engine with 6-volt mains, 3-stage dry sump, electronic ignition, miniature spark plugs. . . . just like a big engine, only small."

"I've been building engines for about 30 years so I have a lot of transferable knowledge about building other engines. So this is more my design, believe it or not, but I use a full-size Chevy (camshaft) to get the profile for my engine."

"I was originally licensed by



Gary Conley's small-engine booth was a big hit at the show.



Children of GM employees enjoy running diecast cars on a track.



GM engineer Denise Myers and her 1998 Corvette pace car.

Chrysler to build quarter-scale Viper V-10 engines, but I got a horrible phone call one night that the foundry that was casting my engines in Florida actually burned to the ground and I lost every mold."

It was that kind of car engine "car talk" that charmed the GM Powertrain employees as they spent their lunch hour touring the site and eating hot dogs and ice cream on a 90-degree hot summer day.

Meanwhile, at the drag race car exhibit, we found GM



Slot cars were popular amongst children of GM Powertrain employees at the annual car show.

Powertrain mechanical and transmission engineer Craig Ross, who was admiring one of the long-nosed drag racers on display.

"How I got into the car business was classic cruiser cars,"

he observed. "My first car was a 1949 Plymouth – I bought it before I could drive."

And to think that today he's a transmission engineer for General Motors in Pontiac.

So there was your 2012 edition of the annual employee car show at GM Powertrain in Pontiac.

Next on the calendar is the GM Tech Center employee car show on July 25 in Warren.

## Military Joins with Golf Tourney, Set for Next Week in Lake Orion

WARREN – When the United States Golf Association (USGA) and Indianwood Golf and Country Club kick off the 33rd U.S. Senior Open Championship the week of July 9 - 15 in Lake Orion, the two organizations will do so with a respectful nod to a key industry that many don't associate with Michigan – the military.

"The USGA is pleased to honor our nation's military at the U.S. Senior Open," said Tim Flaherty, the USGA's senior director of the U.S. Senior Open Championship.

"The U.S. Army's Detroit Arsenal has more than 8,500 associates, and we are proud to assist in a program that provides quality of life for soldiers, their families and civilian employees. We appreciate the efforts of those soldiers, whether on active duty or retired, as well as those working behind the scenes as civilians in military work."

Together, the USGA and Indianwood have coordinated efforts with the U.S. Army TACOM LCMC to show appreciation for those Soldiers currently serving, retired Soldiers and those behind the scenes. These efforts include:

"Military Wednesday" – All military service personnel – both active and retired – are invited to experience the 2012 U.S. Senior Open on Wednesday, July 11. By showing Military identification at the gate, guests will receive one free grounds ticket for Wednesday's practice rounds. As always, children 17 and under are admitted for free and parking for all spectators is free.

"Military Hole" – For the first time at a USGA event, the 448-yard 16th hole at Indianwood will be designated the "Military Hole" on July 11. At the hole, the everyday pin flag will be replaced by an American flag. When golfers reach the putting surface, a caddy will deliver the flag to a local Soldier who will hold the flag at attention – "tend the pin" – and keep the flag safely off the ground. Caddies will



Fred Couples will golf in the tournament TACOM is sponsoring.

replace the flag as groups move to the 17th tee.

"Ticket Special" – All associates working at the U.S. Army Garrison - Detroit Arsenal are receiving an email from the Army's Family & Morale, Welfare & Recreation (FMWR) offering them a code to receive a special price on tickets good any day of the tournament.

The Detroit Arsenal employs about 8,500 in Warren, Mich., a mere 30 miles south of the course. Army business units there include the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems, Program Executive Office Combat Support and Combat Service Support, among others.

"I am equally happy and proud that our folks at Indianwood and the USGA are able to provide this kind of recognition and have Army participation at the U.S. Senior Open Championship," remarked Keith Aldridge, general manager of Indianwood Golf and Country Club and U.S. Senior Open Championship chairman. "This is the type of com-

munity involvement and spirit unique to the sport of golf and one that really hits home here in Michigan."

All-time greats such as Fred Couples, Tom Watson, Hale Irwin and Nick Price will be vying for the U.S. Senior Open on a timeless, Wilfrid Reid-designed Golden Age course that opened in 1925. Reid also designed The Olympic Club in San Francisco, site of the recently completed U.S. Open.

"The people at the USGA and Indianwood Golf and Country Club are doing great things for this area," said Major General Michael J. Terry, commanding general of the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. "I appreciate the recognition they are giving our Soldiers, and I am proud that we at the Detroit Arsenal are able to support this event."

Note that Terry was recently transferred from Fort Shafter, Hawaii, to TACOM in Warren, so with having spent years immersed in local business and athletics in Hawaii, he's familiar with the advantages that associations with golf tournaments can bring. Look for Terry at the club, he's the hawk-nosed guy who looks like an Army general.

## Auburn Hills Measures Effectiveness Of Dodge Ram Plug-Ins in City Fleet

By Jim Stickford

As home to Chrysler's world headquarters as well as facilities belonging to international automotive suppliers, the city of Auburn Hills has decided to take the lead in raising awareness and building electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.

To that end, the city has built charging stations around town, including one at city hall.

Steve Cohen, director of community development for the city, said the decision to take a role in raising awareness of the need for infrastructure was reached about a year ago.

"It was a team effort," Cohen said. "I've been leading the team, but it's the city council, the city manager and city employees. We want to support innovation because, as home of Chrysler, we want to support the company. Detroit is the leader of the car business, and want to support the industry."

Cohen said the city is a member of the Clean Energy Coalition. It's a non-profit group that helps diversify the different vehicle power trains and their power sources. The coalition received a Department of Energy grant to Michigan prepare for EVs.

"We contacted the coalition in April of 2011," Cohen said, "and asked to become a Champion City. We moved forward and partnered with several local groups, including Chrysler."

The company provided us with eight demo vehicles – four Ram trucks and four mini-vans. They are plug-in hybrid gas/electric vehicles similar to the Prius. What we've put up is plug-in EV infrastructure and this give us experience. The charging stations came with the vehicles and with eight stations."

Five of the stations are installed on city property, Cohen said. Working with DTE, another partner, they were able to install three others in

downtown Auburn Hills.

"In a nutshell, we are able to lead because we use eight vehicles from Chrysler," Cohen said. "The testing period is three years. Different staff use the vehicle during the day. Data is sent electronically to Chrysler. They know everything about how the vehicles are used and how they perform via GPS electronics." Feedback Cohen has received from staff members who have used the electronic Chrysler test vehicles has been very positive.

He said he thinks the technology is great and Chrysler keeps tweeking it.

"The most important thing to remember," Cohen said, "is that Auburn Hills council has passed an electric vehicle infrastructure ordinance. The gist of it is it cuts red tape for people and businesses that want to install chargers. Someone wishing to do so won't have to need any sort of special public permit or zoning hearing. The person in question would just have to fill out a regular building permit."

The ordinance also determines who can and can't park at a spot with a charger, Cohen said. Now the city can work easily with new businesses when they come into the city and help them plan to put in a charging station if they so wanted to do so.

Cohen said he understands that this EV technology and infrastructure won't be adopted overnight.

"This will take time," Cohen said. "We are envisioning the next generation from now. We like to look where today's trends are going and anticipate its needs. Being home to Chrysler we believe this technology will progress. As the cost of vehicles comes down and the technology gets better, we want to be ready. If our businesses are prepared for this, the infrastructure we will put in place will also make the buildings more valuable."

Cohen said Auburn Hills is a regional destination. There

are large companies and shopping centers in the city. There's the Palace. If someone has a vehicle like the Nissan Leaf, that person will hesitate less to make a long trip to the city if that person knows where his car can be easily recharged.

"We're hearing from people in the region who have bought EVs," Cohen said. "They're asking us how they can best use their vehicles, and now we have information we can give them. We're also taking a leadership role in the nation when it comes to signage. We were in Los Angeles in May along with the Clean Energy Coalition. The sign we created has been presented as a possible national sign to indicate where a charging station is and that the space is reserved for vehicles that need a charge."

Cohen said Auburn Hills has joined other cities, such as Austin, Texas, and Portland, Ore., as a city that is leading the way for EVs. He said they are the only city in Michigan that has done what they've done – so far.

"Now that the coalition has presented its plan to other communities, we will help these communities adopt similar ordinances," Cohen said. "This is an education issue. Right now communities are busy dealing with issues of

### Patrick Will Head IT At Alcov9 in Oxford

Patrick B. Griffis has joined Alcov9, an integrative software development firm, as Technical Support Manager.

In this position, Patrick will lead the technical support department at Alcov9, focusing on Alcov9 providing high-quality support for client implementations, and keeping customers' environments running efficiently.

Griffis brings experience from both the IT and customer support worlds to his new position. He began his career 13 years ago in the IT Dept. at Chrysler.