

## GM Tech Center Retiree Mike Oginsky Talks of Automaker's Support and His Work with Explorer Scouts

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time, it kind of escalated and I ended up working with the scouts until GM withdrew its support. I fell in love with working with the kids."

The whole idea behinds GM's sponsorship of the scouts, Oginsky said, was to get young people "into GM cars, and to train the next generation of GM workers."

"My troop was 1909," Oginsky said. "But we were basically just known as the Explorer Scouts, and there were other troops sponsored by GM as well."

One thing that Oginsky found interesting was how eager and hard-working the female Explorer Scouts were.

"They really wanted to learn and they were willing to do the work," Oginsky said. "The guys wanted to do the work, too, but they sometimes thought they knew more than they knew. The women, on the other hand, listened to what they were told and I would have to say that they did excellent work."

Two of the female scouts, Oginsky said, went on to attend Kettering University, with one getting a \$50,000 scholarship.

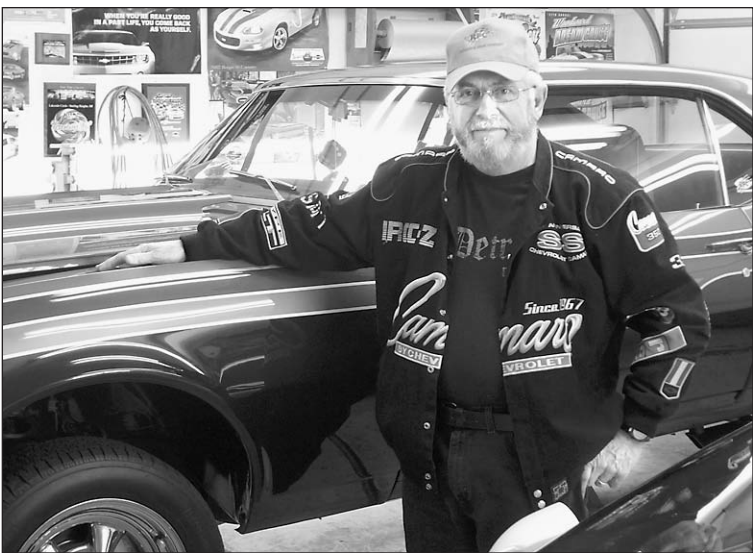
"Thank God for Facebook," Oginsky said. "It allows me to keep in touch with my former scouts. I've been invited to weddings and graduations. Some are as far away as California."

GM was very generous with the scouts, Oginsky said. They donated "beaters" that had been driven into the ground and couldn't be sold.

"We're talking about prototypes that had no VINs," Oginsky said. "We would get money from GM to work on the cars. Some of their suppliers, like SSBC, would donate parts."

The scouts had a reputation of delaying work on the cars, Oginsky said. They would usually start their projects in September, but most of the work was done later to get the cars ready for Autorama in February.

"We had a few nights that ended at 1:30 a.m.," Oginsky said. "In my defense, when you start



GM Retiree Mike Oginsky with his 1967 Camaro

painting a vehicle, you can't stop because of chemical reactions that take place. I will say that we always got our work done in time to enter the car at Autorama."

Oginsky said Autorama is a big deal because of its tradition and that it features the best cars in the country.

"I've been to shows where they have more cars," Oginsky said. "But I haven't been to a show with better cars."

While Oginsky is retired, he

hasn't stopped being busy.

He is an ordained minister who belongs to the organization, "Racers for Christ." The group is based out of Mesa, Ariz.

Members do things like hold services before race events. They're even allowed to go down on the track if there is a crash to comfort injured drivers or their families.

He has named his classic Camaro, "Faster for the Master," in honor of his faith.

## GM Includes Ion, HHR SUV, Sky, Solstice in Recall

DETROIT (AP) – General Motors on Feb. 25 doubled to 1.6 million the number of small cars it is recalling to fix faulty ignition switches linked to multiple fatal crashes.

Just three weeks ago, GM announced the recall of more than 780,000 Chevrolet Cobalts and Pontiac G5s. It's now adding 842,000 Saturn Ion compacts, Chevrolet HHR SUVs and Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky sports cars.

The company was immediately lambasted by a well-known safety advocate who says GM knew of the problem for years and waited too long to recall the cars even though people were killed because of the problem.

GM says a heavy key ring or jarring from rough roads can cause the ignition switch to move out of the run position and shut off the engine and electrical power.

That can knock out power-assisted brakes and steering and disable the front air bags.

The problem has been linked to 31 crashes and 13 front-seat deaths. In the fatalities, the air bags did not inflate, but the engines did not shut off in all cases, GM said.

It was unclear whether the ignition switches caused the crashes, or whether people died because the air bags didn't inflate.

## Warren Symphony Violinist Judith Teasdale to Perform

The Warren Symphony Orchestra (WSO) will present an intimate ensemble of symphony musicians on Sunday, March 9, performing classical selections by Bach, Rorem and Berio, at a new location.

"Accenting WSO's Own" is an opportunity for the Warren Symphony to showcase the rich talent of concertmaster Elizabeth Rowin and principal second violinist Judith Teasdale performing classical greats with just a few other musicians," said Dr. Gregory Cunningham, music director.

"The concert repertoire will include Johann Sebastian Bach's 'The Concerto for Two Violins in d Minor,' Ned Rorem's 'Eleven Studies for Eleven Players,' and Luciano Berio's 'Folk Songs for Mezzo Soprano and Seven Instruments.'"

Both Rowin and Teasdale are well-known violin instructors who have been associated with Oakland University of Rochester, Mich., said WSO president Lois Jackman.

The third selection will feature the vocal work of award-winning mezzo-soprano Barbara Bland.

"She has delighted Michigan

Opera Theatre audiences with her 'bright voice mezzo' talents," Cunningham said.

"Bland has been a featured soloist with the WSO, Pontiac-Oakland Symphony, Macomb Symphony, Royal Oak Symphony and other orchestras. She is a vocal instructor and lecturer at Oakland University."

The WSO concert will start at 3 p.m. at St. Faustina Church (formerly St. Edmund Church), 14025 E. 12 Mile Road, in Warren, Jackman said. WSO Conductor Emeritus David Daniels will give a pre-concert talk about the musical selections at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$23 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens and \$10 for college students. Anyone 18 years or younger is free. For group discounts, call 586-286-2222.

Tickets are available from the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts box office at 586-286-2222 or visit [www.macombcenter.com](http://www.macombcenter.com).

The Warren Symphony Orchestra is in its 41st season serving the tri-county area. The orchestra is made up of up to 65 professional musicians. The group per-

forms a broad spectrum of music from traditional classical pieces to works that blur the line between classical and contemporary.

In addition to performing its

regular concert schedule, the WSO also operates educational programs that bring thousands of elementary school students to an orchestra concert, many for the first time.



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