



Fall 2012 Vol 16, No 3



**Congratulations to member Ronn Pittman!  
Seen receiving the Best Safari Award from  
Chapter President Tom Young**

*Custom Safari Chapter*  
Pontiac Oakland Club International

# From the Prez's Garage

*By Tom Young*



*Tom Young, The "New" Prez*

# Behind the Wheel in the Editor's Seat

*By Rich Pye*

*Hello Everyone,*

*Welcome to the Fall/Convention review issue. I hope you enjoy all the pictures. It looks like it was a fun and successful convention. I wish I could have made it last year, but I'm hoping I can make it back to Dayton for the Co-convention in 2013. My thanks go out to Robin Petry and Tom Young for their convention coverage and photos.*

*I'd also like to thank Randy Kerdoon for his article and pictures from Mike Green's successful Wounded Warrior's Car Show. They raised a ton of money for a great cause and had fun doing it along the way. It was great to see all those '57's together at once!*

*Let me take this opportunity to welcome to the chapter 2 new members, Ted Barkei and Daryl Travis, who joined at the convention and welcome back a previous member who rejoined, Mike Nible.*

*Here are some award winners from the convention:*

- Jack and Jill White won the long distance chapter award for driving 900 miles in their Safari.*
- Ronn Pittman won chapter "Best Safari" award (picture is on the cover of this issue with Tom Young presenting the award)*
- In CSC Popular Vote category: Outstanding was awarded to Gary Parker and Harold & Carol Cary with Most Outstanding awarded to Jack and Jill White.*

*Since you all enjoy my Firebird saga, I'll update you that I'm ready for the engine install after "stuffing" the AC components and dashboard back into dash compartment. I have no idea how they built those things in the factory as it's like packing a sardine can. The only thing missing is the oil and/or mustard sauce!! I have more cuts on my hand than a piece of paper at a scrapbooking convention.....Now I just have to hunt down the guy rebuilding my engine who coincidentally is now fully engulfed in "hunting" season here.*

*Chapter business: as you'll see I left out the Safari Search/Want Ads in this issue. Those start to get stale after a while, so I want to start fresh. If you have anything for sale (new or still from before) or any want ads, please contact me at: [rppe@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rppe@rochester.rr.com). If you must use the phone, please leave a message with all the details and your email address so I can get back to you!*

*Okay, enough writing for now. Get out and drive your Safari before the snow flies (except those in the South or Southwest, who are lucky enough to drive all year long!)*



# Member of the Quarter

# Custom Safari Chapter Meeting Minutes

POCI National Meeting, July 19 2012

St. Charles, IL

**17 Members in attendance:** Tom Young, Robin Petry, Mark Petry, Robin Clark, Ronn Pittman, Sandy Bowers, James Bowers, Gary Parker, Carol Cary, Harold Cary, Kathy Miller, Luke Miller, Lou Calasibetta, Lee Hadley, Wilf Kaszanits, Jack White, Jill White.

**2 Visitors:** Ted Barkei, Daryl Travis (who joined as members after the meeting).

President, Tom Young, called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

2011 minutes of the chapter meeting were printed in the newsletter after last year's meeting. Lee Hadley made a motion to accept minutes as submitted, seconded by Gary Parker which was approved unanimously by the membership.

Robin Petry presented:

**Tshirt inventory:** 16 shirts left (four 3X, three 2X, six M, three S, no L or XL.

**Treasurer's report:** Starting balance as of 6/30/11 was \$1759.44. Since 6/30/12: Income \$1322 (\$1113 from dues, \$209 from tshirts) and Expenses \$1420.06 (\$72.29 general postage, \$70 Website Host Domain, \$53.37 2012 Convention plaque and display trophy update, \$25.31 2012 Convention snacks, \$840 four newsletters, \$360.09 newsletter postage) leaving a balance as of 7/19/12 of \$1661.38.

**Membership report:** Current number of registered families/members is 52.

Maximum membership in 2011 was 55 registered families/members.

The original bylaws have not been revised since originally approved in 1977. Tom Young will work with the board over the next year and submit to the membership for approval.

Tom suggested and the group was very supportive of a new newsletter feature: CSC Member, Randy Kerdoon, who has extensive interviewing and writing experience, as well as, a terrific sense of humor, will call members to interview them and then write it up for the newsletter. Members agreed that 4 newsletters a year is adequate. Tom Young thanked Rich Pye for his excellent work with the newsletter. Rich Pye states he can currently continue as newsletter editor but that is always dependent on in his work situation.

Tom showed the group windshield travel decals that he created with Safari designs. They cost approximately 50 cents to produce. Member, Jack Johnson, is an artist that could work with Tom on designs. This could be fun for the group and be a fund raising option. The group was interested in pursuing. Tom will follow up and future availability announced in newsletter or by email.

The group discussed whether the current CSC shirt design should be re-ordered or another design explored. A reorder of the current design with Outlaw Tees would require a minimum order of 60 shirts at approximately \$550. That is a significant portion of the treasury and the question would be whether we have reached a saturation of current members with this design and a re-order would take a long time to recoup the investment. The group would like another design explored. Tom has a design from the past. Jill White suggested when more shirts are ordered that women sizes be included.

# Custom Safari Chapter Meeting Minutes cont'd

The chapter will co-cruise with the Street Rod Modified Chapter to the Colonial Café for lunch today at 2pm. Members going are to meet in front of Pheasant Run.

Members at the convention to meet Saturday, July 21st at 1pm at the Custom Safari Popular Vote Class area to vote for the "Best Safari" at the convention and determine which member drove their Safari the longest distance.

During an open discussion period, Tom led the group in discussing what new technologies may be beneficial in promoting the CSC such as Facebook. Overall consensus was to use more conventional avenues: Smoke Signals articles and emails to POCI members with Safaris by requesting a list from Paul Bergstrom. Also, with the POCI bylaw change that you can be a chapter member without being a POCI member, members can encourage non-POCI members to join. POCI will require that chapters submit a quarterly membership list indicating POCI vs. Non-POCI members and this will necessitate having Rich Pye evaluate how to add new members to the chapter website to have access to past newsletters since currently that is done with member last name and POCI number.

Also, during the open discussion, members discussed pros and cons to opening the membership to all Safaris instead of just 55-56-57-58's. Some members felt opening it up would potentially increase membership. Other members felt no one is prohibited from joining whether they have a Custom Safari, other Safaris or no car at all but a love Custom Safaris. No decision was made to change anything at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robin Petry*

Robin Petry, CSC Secretary/Treasurer



**LEFT:** President Tom Young talks to members at the annual chapter meeting. In attendance were current members Robin Petry, Mark Petry, Robin Clark, Ronn Pittman, Sandy Bowers, James Bowers, Gary Parker, Carol Cary, Harold Cary, Kathy Miller, Luke Miller, Lou Calasibetta, Lee Hadley, Wilf Kaszanits, Jack White, Jill White, along with new members Ted Barkei, Daryl Travis (who joined as members after the meeting). Welcome guys!!

# Convention Review



**Top:** Line up for the Chapter Cruise to the Colonial Cafe

**Middle:** Group arrives for a photo before enjoying lunch

**Bottom:** Chapter members sharing some Pontiac stories inside the Colonial Cafe with member of the Street Rod Modified Chapter

# Convention Review



*New member Daryl Travis with his 1970 Safari*



*Robin Clark and Tom Young check out a 1955 Safari*



*Jim and Sandy Bowers outside the Colonial Cafe*



*Wilf and Wendy Kaszanits at the parking lot listening to the "1969" band*



*Gary Parker and his friend Alan checking out the swap meet...hey I need that oil pan over there!!*



*Ronn Pittman with his son and grandchildren in front of his Safari*



# Convention Review



*The Hadleys at the Route 66 museum*



*Ex "1st" lady Andrea Cook helps with the Tech Inspection*



*Luke and Kathy Miller going through the Tech Inspection*



*Ex "Pres" Steve Cook was rarely seen without his phone or jet setting on his golf cart around the Points Judging*



*Wilf Kaszantis and Mark Petry chatting around a '56 Safari*



*Jack and Jill White hanging out with Tonto*

# Convention Review



Harold and Carol Cary with their '55 Safari that won an "Outstanding" Award



Luke and Kathy Miller with their '56 Safari



Gary Parker with his '55 Safari that won an "Outstanding" Award



Jack and Jill White with their '57 Transcontinental that won the "Most Outstanding" Award



Tom and SummerYoung and Mark Petry checking out a '55 Safari For Sale, Summer says "no way Tom"



Tom and Summer next to a nice GTO, Summer says "this is much better Tom"

# Convention Review



*Above: Safari Row at the Popular Vote field.*

*Below: Chapter member gather for a group picture after the awards ceremony.*



# Suddenly It's 1957 All Over Again in Long Beach, CA

*by Randy Kerdoon*

*Let's be honest. So few Pontiac Custom Safaris were made in model year 1957 (1,292 as we all know)....finding six of them parked next to each other was only likely....if you were visiting your nearby Pontiac dealer....in 1957! (and that wasn't a guarantee....assuming they could GET six from Pontiac to put on the lot!) That's what made the sight at the Wounded Warrior car show at Long Beach, CA. in August all that more startling.*

*In a show of nearly 200 cars....there they were, SIX 1957 Safaris parked next to each other. Thanks to Custom Safari Club member Mike Green's cajoling, and encouragement, five of us brought our '57s out for a rare reunion.*

*Aspen Pittman's Safari was just out of the restoration shop, and was the only Safari there sporting classic "fender skirts"; Mike Johnson and Tim O'Donnell's Safari's were colored in light blue and white; Marvin Morton had the Safari with the roof rack and black spear; my Safari was the only one sporting classic "Cragar" rims....and Green's recently resto-moded Safari in Brown was stunning in the amount of work done, yet in keeping the car looking classic. Former CSC president Robin Clark was there as well, but behind the wheel of a beautiful 1957 Oldsmobile convertible. I'm told Robin has FOUR 57 Safari's....the only one running is his favorite "rust bucket" ....beige with the red top and spear. Sadly our current president, Tom was off with Cal fire keeping home owners safe during the wild fire season, thus keeping his 438 (at last count) Safari's away from the show. I believe 2 or 3 actually run....*

*It brought to mind the time, some 8 years ago, when three Safaris showed up at the Route 66 restaurant car show in Canyon Country, CA. An grandfather-ly looking gent said....i've never seen one of these EVER....and now...I'm seeing three of them!!*

*My '57 also made an appearance next to the KNX 1070 radio booth (I'm a sportscaster there so I nabbed the cool parking spot) at the famed Glendale Cruise Night, in Glendale, CA. It was the only Safari at the show!*

*The good news from Mike Green's show, it raised over \$18,000 for the Wounded Warriors charity....and there was plenty of Safari talk amongst the club members and a few others interested in the cars. One of them was a man who just bought a '57 he plans to restore. (by the way, I'm not sure why nobody in Cali seems to show their 55 and 56 Safari's....but just to make it clear...our group is an "equal opportunity Safari club"!!)*

*NOTES : If you are on Facebook, there IS a Custom Safari page....it's "CSC-Custom Safari Club". So far Rich Pye and I are the only ones on it....and we'd love to have to follow us...just hit the "Like" button and you will get in!! Share with us your Safari pictures and stories!!*

*NOTES 2: Starting next issue, I'll be writing a column based on the histories of our cars....and how some of us were able to track down said history. Some of us have been lucky to be original owners or know who originally bought the car...and have PICTURES of them from yesteryear! I'd love to hear from you so I can tell your Safari stories! My email is [kerdoonfiles1070@hotmail.com](mailto:kerdoonfiles1070@hotmail.com)*



# Wounded Warrior Show



**Above:** Safari owners at the Wounded Warrior show. Left to Right: Aspen Pittman, Robin Clark, Randy Kerdoon, Tim O-Donnell, Marvin Morton, Mike Johnson (soon to be a new member) and Mike Green  
**Below:** Another view of the six '57 Safaris on display



# Wounded Warrior Show



**Above:** Mike Green's '57 Safari  
**Below:** Marvin Morton's '57 Safari



# Wounded Warrior Car Show



*Above: Aspen Pittman's '57 Safari*  
*Below: Tailgate rear view of the six '57 Safari's on display*



# POCI Chapter #10

[www.customsafari.org](http://www.customsafari.org)

The Custom Safari Chapter is an official international chapter of the Pontiac Oakland Club, International, Incorporated. The POCI headquarters address is: P.O. Box 539 Victor, NY 14564

Annual Dues are \$21.00. Renewals are due January 1st of each year. New member dues are pro-rated quarterly from January 1st. Applicants must be a current member of POCI prior to joining the chapter. Send payment to Robin Petry.

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