



*Spring 2005
Volume 7, Number 1*

Custom Safari Chapter

**Are you ready for the 2005 POCI
International Convention?**



Pontiac Oakland Club International

From the President's Garage

By Mark Petry

“Advanced Scouting”

Greetings fellow Safari Club members. I hope everything is going well for you and that you are enjoying the wonderful spring/summer weather.

The big news at this time of the year is preparing for the Pontiac convention, which this year will be held in Greenville, SC, July 12th-16th. I have just gotten my two rear axles back from the machine shop after having them install new bearings and seals to stop a newly discovered grease leak. Over the next several weeks, I will be heading over to my long-term car buddy, Jerry Melchiors, with the Safari to do a complete brake job in preparation for the trip to the nationals.

Robin and I are excited that this year's convention is located only three hours away from where we live in Augusta, Ga. After traveling 2-3 days to some of the past national conventions, we are looking forward to this short commute. Being that it is this close, we are looking forward to the added bonus of being able to also take our '55 Convertible.

This year's convention is sponsored by the Palmetto Chapter. Since it is so close to us, Robin and I feel like “honorary” hosts. Robin and I drove to Greenville several weekends ago to “scout out” the situation to report to you. In doing so, we had a “Twilight Zone” experience. We left after work on Friday and arrived in Greenville about 11pm. Our plan was to stop and stay at a motel and get up bright and early Saturday morning to look around. Not being familiar with Greenville, we drove around randomly looking for a motel to spend the night. We finally chose a Comfort Inn. Upon rising to a bright and sunny Saturday morning, we were astonished to find that we had stumbled into the exact Comfort Inn we have reservations for in July and the convention center was only one block away.

We have a friend, Robert Rizzuto, who lives in Greenville and he met us and showed us around and gave us some great “Greenville Vacationing Tips”. He also happens to be a Pontiac guy. He has recently joined POCI and will be showing a beautiful 1963 Pontiac Grand Prix in the Preservation Points Judge Class.

We will have our annual Custom Safari Chapter Meeting on Wednesday, 8:30am, in the Woodside Conference Center, Room 103. Afterwards, we will continue on to our annual Safari Cruise-In Breakfast and go to Stax restaurant, which has plenty of parking and a large dining room. We have made arrangements to have an area set aside for us that morning.

continued on the next page

“Advanced Scouting”

Besides what has been highlighted in Smoke Signals, we recommend spending some time in the downtown area of Greenville.

- *The Greenville downtown won the 2003 Great American Main Street Award. Most of these events are free or you can give a small donation.*
- *A focal point is the Reedy River Falls Park, which has a beautiful waterfall and a unique 355 ft suspension bridge you can walk across to view the waterfall.*
- *Every Wednesday night, Reedy River Falls Park has a free bring your own lawn chair concert from 7pm-9pm with a mixture of jazz, country, patriotic, rock and roll, blues and reggae music.*
- *Kilgore-Lewis House, which is an historic house, built around 1838.*
- *American Legion War Museum which houses artifacts from the Revolutionary war, Civil War, Spanish-American war, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and Iraq War.*
- *Greenville Bombers is a minor league Class A team for the Boston Red Sox. They will be in town for 7:05pm home games July 13th-16th playing the Columbus Catfish.*

On Wednesday after the Safari Breakfast Cruise Robin and I are interested in seeing the Reedy River Falls Park waterfall, walking downtown shops, and seeing the Kilgore-Lewis House and American Legion War Museum. These last two are free, but require setting up a time with the staff. If you are interested in going, call us at 706-736-3392.

We have enclosed a few pictures of these sites and hope to see many of you at the convention. Well, that's about it for now. Time to get back to getting the cars ready for the show!

Mark



“Advanced Scouting”



Above: Reedy River Falls Park in Greenville, SC.

Below: Kilgore-Lewis House and the American Legion War Museum.



Behind the Wheel in the Editor's Seat

By Rich Pye

Hello Everyone,

As I sat down to create this issue of SAFARI NEWS I was wondering what I could scrape together to put out 16 pages of interesting Safari related information. Well I have 16 pages, no guarantee on the interesting part.

Thanks to Mark and Robin Petry for their "Advanced Scouting" of the Greenville, SC area where this years POCI convention is being held. I'm really looking forward to it and hope to see many of you there, especially those of you I haven't met before. You'll find pictures of some of the sites to see in this issue. Also remember to be at the chapter meeting and breakfast cruise. Don't be afraid to go cruisin' with us, even if you don't have a show car. I'm cruisin' in my 2001 Suburban loaded with stuff and 3 kids.

I stole an idea from Mark in the last issue and have taken some pictures of some of my Pontiac Collectibles. I hope you enjoy them. If you have any cool items to share with the rest of us, take some pictures or scans of them and pass them along. It's neat to see what's out there in people's display cases.

I also have included some excerpts from the 2nd issue of the SAFARI NEWS from 1977 and pictures from the First Safari Round-Up held in 1978 in Orlando, FL. Sorry for the poor quality of the pictures, but there was a lot of green and yellow saturation and I couldn't clean them up as well as I would have liked. The pictures and article again came from Steve Cory. There will be more to come in future issues.

Does anyone out there know anyone who is serving our country in Iraq or Afghanistan? Well, I'm proud to say that I do and that's our own Safari chapter member Zach Platt from Florida. I spoke with Zach a few months ago just before he was headed off to Afghanistan with his reserve unit. Zach's getting his Safari News forwarded to him, while he's gone until September or so of 2006. So here's a hearty hello to Zach and may you stay safe while you protect our freedoms!! I don't suppose you'll run across any Safaris while you're over there, but if you do, drop us a line!

One last item of business, I haven't received any items to post in the Safari Search portion of the newsletter, (that's where people can post items/cars for sale or want ads), so I am not including that section in the newsletter until the need arises. There still are a couple of items for sale and want ads on the web site. Let me know if you have anything to update or add.



Pontiac's flair for years-ahead styling was never more evident than in the fabulous all-new Safari.

Until the convention or our next issue, Happy Cruisin'!!

Rich

Safari Member of the Quarter

Your Name: Richard Marcoux

Spouse's Name: Trudy

Safari(s) Owned: 1956 Custom Safari

When/Where did you acquire your first Safari? On-line

What was your first car? 1955 Mercury

What was your first Pontiac? 1952 Pontiac

Reason for "collecting" Safaris: Better than a Nomad

Reason for joining the Custom Safari Chapter: To see more Safaris and meet other owners

Favorite Safari Accessory owned: No favorite

Most wanted Safari Accessory: None

Do you have "other" Pontiacs? If so, list model and year: No

What are your favorite non-Pontiac hobbies? Antique wooden boats

Least favorite car task: Anything that gets grease on me

Most favorite car task: Driving

Best thing about being a Pontiac Custom Safari Owner: To tell someone, "It's not a Nomad"

Favorite non-Safari car: Early Mercurys

Favorite car-related web site: None

Favorite parts vendor: None

Best car care tip to share: Painting the inside of the Tailight housings gives you brighter Tailights

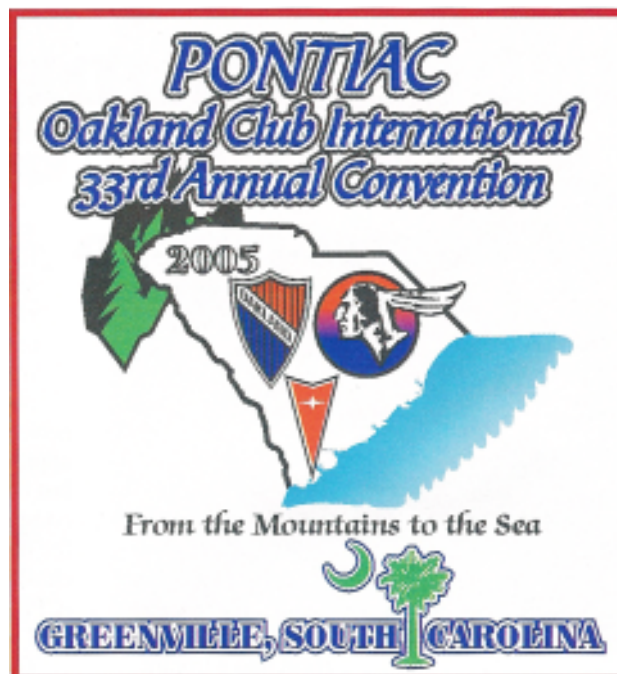


Safari Member of the Quarter

Richard & Trudy Marcoux



Above: Richard and Trudy Marcoux's 1956 Custom Safari. It is Body No. CL2785. It has Trim 275, Paint NP, and ACC BIK. It resides in Long Beach, CA



Pye's Pontiac Collectibles



Above: Avon After-Shave bottles and 1955 Road Champ Safaris.

Below: Auto-Home Accessory Shaver with "Class of 1955" plate and Dealer towel.



Pye's Pontiac Collectibles



*Above: 1955 Safari literature which is hard to come by since it was a mid-year car.
Below: Pontiac matchbook covers, '55 seat cover samples and a '56 Facts Book.*



Pye's Pontiac Collectibles



*Above: 1955 and 1957 Pontiac Dealer Books, with interior and exterior options.
Below: General Motors ad for the new '55 Safari and Nomad.*



Vintage Article

*Excerpts from the 2nd Chapter Newsletter,
by Steve Cory*



The above newsletter letterhead was designed by John Eichinger of Aberdeen, SD. Thanks John for a super design!

Well, as you can see above, SAFARI NEWS won hands down as the most popular title for our newsletter. Other answers to our mini-questionnaire in the last issue resulted in total acceptance of the \$5.00 dues and also the inclusion of the Transcontinental in our chapter. Many members have already sent in their \$5.00 and in fact, this money paid for the printing of the newsletter. If you send me your \$5.00 by check, please include my name on the check so I can cash it and apply it to our budget. Until we have officers I cannot open a bank account in the chapter's name. I also received many nominations for our officers. In all fairness to the nominees, I contacted them and gave them a chance to accept or turn down their nominations. In many cases they turned down their nominations because of conflicting time schedules and outside interests.

Other news includes our new applications. If you know of a Safari owner who is not a member of this chapter, but would like to be, then send for an application and forward it to them. But before you forward it, Xerox some copies for yourself, and this will help save us printing costs.

Eleven of our members responded to the Getting To Know You column by sending in a little about themselves. I will try and include as many profiles as our space allows in each issue. The next time you find some extra time, how about sending me anything. An advertisement, want ad, article about your cars or a profile of yourself. As witnessed by these newsletters, you can see I am not a writer and I need your help.

BITS & PIECES

- Joe Boyd wants to know if anyone knows a tried and true trick to twist the top horizontal bar of the upper tailgate frame (pot metal) back into its original position without cracking it?
- Ron Fulsang would like help in finding out what BIKN means on his ID plate on his firewall. He also wants to know how many different codes there are. How about some help?
- Carrol Fader wants to know if anyone knows a sure way of stopping a leaking upper tailgate.
- Also the June 1977 issue of STREET MACHINE has an article about a 1956 Safari from CA.

Vintage Article

*Excerpts from the 2nd Chapter Newsletter,
by Steve Cory*

Mark Imber, our POCI Promotional and Advertising Chairman, has found several Safaris in a junkyard in Bootjack, CA. He says that Bootjack is about 30 miles from Yosemite National Park, and that if you can find Bootjack, you can find the junkyard.

Mark has done a great job in his present position and has provided the club with advertising in most of the major antique auto publications. An outstanding 2 page article was recently placed in "Antique Motor News". When are you going to join our chapter Mark?

OFFICER NOMINEES

Below are your choices for our elected officers for the August 1977-August 1978 term. Please pick one person for each office and forward your choices to me ASAP. The majority of our members who sent in nominations only sent in three names. Because of this I felt that it is necessary to merge the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. Our chapter is still small enough that this arrangement should work fine. It's very important that all of our members vote in this election, so take the time to send me a postcard or letter with your choices on it.

For President Nominees are:

Steve Cory
Don DeLo
Art Ruscher

For Vice-President Nominees are:

Gene Boeglin
Bud Stowers
Paul Sylvestri
Danny Parker

For Secretary/Treasurer Nominees are:

Gerald Redden
Len Sokol
Dennis Vaughan

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Name: Stephen Brumm Age 31

Wife: Carol Married 10 years

Children: Cherie Age 9

Julie Age 6

Occupation: Senior Reliability Engineer

General Motors Assembly Division

Southgate California Assembly Plant

Name: Art Ruscher Age 39

Wife: Charlotte Age 36

Children: Lynn Age 15, Kellie Age 12,

Hollie Age 7

Occupation: Self Employed Dry Cleaner

Art has been a member of POCI since 1972.

He currently serves as VP of POCI, member of Board of Directors, '55-'57 Technical Advisor, & President of POCI Florida Chapter.

1978 Safari Round-Up

Pictures Supplied by Steve Cory



Above: First Safari Round-Up in Orlando, FL in 1978. Left to Right: Bud Stowers, Len Sokol, Joe Altoonian, Bill Walkinshaw. Below: Bill Walkinshaw and Family



1978 Safari Round-Up

Pictures Supplied by Steve Cory



1978 Safari Round-Up

Pictures Supplied by Steve Cory



POCI Chapter #10

www.customsafari.org

The Custom Safari Chapter is an official international chapter of the Pontiac Oakland Club, International, Incorporated. The POCI headquarters address is: 2017 Manatee Avenue, West, Bradenton, Florida 34205

Annual Dues are \$18.00. Renewals are due January 1st of each year. New member dues are prorated quarterly from January 1st. Applicants must be a current member of POCI prior to joining the chapter. Send payment to Starr Evans.

The Safari News is a quarterly publication produced by the chapter. Volume 1, Number 1 was distributed in December of 1993. A limited number of back issues are available. Write for further information.


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