



*Summer 2006  
Volume 8, Number 2*

## ***Do You Think This Last Minute Washing and Shining Helped Larry Krause and His 1955 Safari Win***



### ***The Best Chapter Safari Award?***

### ***Custom Safari Chapter***

*Pontiac Oakland Club International*

# From the President's Garage

By Mark Petry

*Greetings Fellow Safarians,*

*I hope the beginning of this fall season finds everyone well and happy. The summer's big event for us was attending the POCI Nationals in Ontario, California. It gave Robin and I a chance to see a whole different crop of Safaris and Pontiacs from the west coast and there certainly were some beauties! The only low point for us was that due to distance and time restrictions, we could not bring our Safari to join in the festivities. Although Robin confessed that she enjoyed a convention watching others wash and shine up their cars.*

*Our annual Safari Chapter meeting was extremely well attended (I counted at least 26 people) as was our traditional breakfast cruise afterwards. A highlight for me was seeing our former president, Robin Clark's daily driver work in progress '57 Safari. It's obvious that Robin really enjoys his car and isn't that what it's really all about? There was plenty of sunshine (and heat) for all of the outside events. The chapter met on the show field on Popular Vote day and voted Larry Krause and his 1955 Safari as Best Chapter Safari. Bird and Norm White won the award for longest distance driven.*

*At the Saturday night awards banquet we had a number of Safari chapter winners:*

*Popular Vote Custom Safari: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Larry Krause, 1955 Safari*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Marvin Morton, 1957 Safari*

*Popular Vote Modified: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bob Garacochea, 1958 Safari*

*Best of Show Post War: Bob Garacochea, 1958 Safari*

*Survivor Silver Award: Bird White, 1955 Safari*

Congratulations to all the winners. The Custom Safari Chapter was honored and recognized at the Friday POCI night awards banquet for the chapter with the largest percentage of members of any chapter attending the convention. Tulsa, Oklahoma was announced as the site for the 2007 convention.

Congratulations to our secretary, Starr Evans and her husband, Noel for having their beautiful 1957 Safari featured in the August 2006 issue of Cars and Parts magazine. The article had great pictures and story to go with it. Rich promises that will be in an upcoming Safari News. Just goes to show you how some things take time, the Evans noted in their local Nutmeg chapter newsletter that they were interviewed for the article five years ago! I guess good things to come to those who wait.

Here in the south, the weather is finally cooling off which means our car show season revs up for many shows during the fall. As I have said in previous articles, my family and I enjoy sharing our Safari with the public. One of the most touching compliments I have ever gotten about our car happened last month. Our local club was supporting a cruise-in for a drive-in restaurant's 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary. While chatting with some of my club friends, I got tap on the shoulder from a stranger. A young man in his early thirties asked me if the Safari was mine. When I said it was he vigorously shook my hand and said, "thank you so much". I inquired as to why his enthusiasm, since there were a lot more flashy cars at the cruise than mine. He replied that he had been a car lover since he was a kid...especially Pontiacs. He then went on to say that over the years in the literature he had seen pictures of Safaris, and had heard how rare they were, but had never seen one in person. He admitted seeing Nomads and had become content imagining what one would look like as a Pontiac. He shook my hand, again thanked me both for bringing the car to the cruise-in and keeping it in original condition so that for the first time in his life he could actually see what they were like in their prime. Events like this happen from time to time and give me pleasure to see that someone appreciates those of us who are preservers of history. I once read somewhere in an antique car related article that we do not really own our cars but are caretakers of them for future generations. Now I see what they mean. So get those Safaris out there and share with them with others.

Lastly, I would like to remind the Safari Chapter membership that my 3-year presidency comes to a close at the end of December. If you feel that you can contribute some time and expertise to our chapter, please consider running for the president or any other board position.

That's it for now....have a great autumn.

**Mark Petry**

# Behind the Wheel in the Editor's Seat

By Rich Pye

*Hello Everyone,*

*Hope you enjoy this convention update issue of the Safari News with all the great pictures that Robin Petry took while they attended the 2006 POCI Convention. Sorry it arrived a little later than normal, but things were crazy in September around here.*

*Enclosed you'll find a nomination form for chapter officers. Please take a moment to nominate someone so we have people to vote for in our next issue due out at the end of the year. We especially need nominations for President as Mark has chosen to not seek re-election. You have two choices to return your ballot. Either fill it out and send it to me via the mail or email me with your nominations.*

*Unfortunately I wasn't able to make this year's convention for various reasons, but it looked like we had a great turn-out at the annual chapter meeting and had a good representation of members throughout the events. Mark mentioned the recognition we received as a chapter for having the highest percentage of members attending the convention. Wasn't there an award for that? There should have been!*

*I'd like to welcome all of our new members who joined at the convention. By the time you get this issue, your access to the Safari website, [www.customsafari.org](http://www.customsafari.org), should be activated. If you have any trouble, feel free to email at [rppe@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rppe@rochester.rr.com) and I'll help you figure it out. I'm hoping during this winter to get the site updated and add a fresh face to it. To help accomplish that, it would be great if everyone could send me an updated picture or pictures of their Safari at dues renewal time, so I can set up a good member photos section.*

*On the project front, I didn't do anything constructive with my Safaris this summer. The '57 still isn't on the road. I have to chase down a few nagging issues like no turn signals, dash lights and the wipers don't work. I figured out why the brake lights were not working....somebody cut the power wire from the fuse block....real strange. This one has AC so that complicates everything. I also noticed that the '57 is not as straight forward regarding wiring as the '55 is. I guess all I need is some time and some patience.*

*My major project for this year has been restoring my '69 GTO. Along with a buddy, we've been doing body work, sandblasting, body filling, and priming. The frustrating part is that you really can't tell much difference from what it looked like a year ago. I guess this restoration stuff doesn't get rewarding until that final coat of body paint is done! This winter we'll just be sanding and filling, two of my new favorite things....*

*Well it's time to get outside and put away all the summer stuff for the year, as there is snow in our forecast later this week. Where did the warm weather go?*



*Pastor's flair for years-ahead styling was never more evident than in the fearless all-rounder Safari.*

*Talk to you in the next issue.*

**Rich**

## Custom Safari Chapter Annual Meeting

29 June 2006 ~ Ontario, CA

President Mark Petry introduced himself to the 29 assembled CSC members and interested folks at the Double Tree, host hotel for the 2006 POCI Convention.

Rich Pye, our esteemed Editor was given a well-deserved round of applause for all he does for our chapter. Mark and Robin Petry and Starr Evans were also given a round of applause for the work they do for the Custom Safari Chapter.

Introductions of those present were made.

The Chapter's balance stands at \$1,595.35. A \$2 overpayment was refunded to Carl Loftis, who immediately said to put it back into the treasury.

Everyone was asked to send in articles to Rich Pye for the **Safari News**. Several people volunteered. Tom Young volunteered to write an article about the history of the Custom Safari Chapter for **Smoke Signals**.

Mark and Robin Petry volunteered to secure the *Best Safari* plaque each year. Mark then presented Carl Loftis with the first *Best Safari* plaque for his winning at the 2005 Greenville, SC convention.

Carl then made the motion to keep our *Best Safari* trophy with our chapter display and award a *Best Safari* plaque to the winner at each convention. The chapter would engrave the winner's name on the trophy and on the plaque. The plaque would remain with the winner. Larry Krause seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Voting for the *Best Safari* at the 2006 convention will be at 12:30 PM at the CS class on the Popular Vote Show field.

At 9:15 AM, immediately following the meeting, there will be a cruise to Mimi's Café. The Chapter thanks Robin Clark for finding Mimi's for us. Thanks to Robin Petry for making the final arrangements for the breakfast cruise.

Mark announced that he would not be running for another term as President due to other commitments in his life. He has enjoyed his tenure as President and encouraged others to consider running.

T-Shirts were again mentioned. Starr has a person she works with on t-shirts for the Nutmeg Chapter who could be used to make shirts for the Custom Safari Chapter. People thought a survey included in the **Safari News** would be a good way to find out what people want. It was suggested that several designs be included in the **Safari News** and people be given the chance to select the final design.

Steve Cook spoke about new additives to oils and gas and the damage they can do to older car engines. Mark suggested folks try to attend John Sawruk's seminar this afternoon to learn more about this and how to remedy the problem.

The meeting adjourned as our allotted time had run out and the next group was already gathering for their meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Starr F. Evans  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Custom Safari Chapter, POCI



*Above & Below: Chapter President Mark Petry presents Larry Krause with the 2006 Best Chapter Safari Award for his 1955 Custom Safari. Congratulations Larry!!*





***Above:** Mark Petry presenting Carl Loftis with the newly designed Chapter Trophy plaque for winning the Best Chapter Safari in 2005. **Below:** Larry Krause, 1st Place CS Popular Vote and Marvin Morton, 2nd Place CS Popular Vote display their awards.*





***Above:** Bird and Norm White next to their 1955 Custom Safari which won the Chapter Longest Distance Travelled Award. **Below:** Bird displays her Points Judged Silver Award for the Safari and Norm displays his Bronze Award.*





*Above and Below: Views of the Safaris at the POCI Convention.*







*Above and Below: Additional views of the Safaris at the POCI Convention including a good tailgate angle above.*





*Above: Mark Petry and Starr Evans running the Chapter Meeting. Below: Steve Cook sharing information about camshaft failures due to new oil changes and how to avoid them.*





*Above: The Chapter Meeting had a great turnout this year. Below: Members of the chapter gathered for a picture on Saturday at the Popular Vote Show Field.*





*Above: Chapter members gather around Robin Clark's Safari. Below: Then they get their reward of surviving a ride in Robin's Safari by eating breakfast. They're smiling because they made it alive!! Just kidding Robin, it's in better shape than my '57!!*





*Above: Chapter members Tom Young, Robin Clark, Ed Vassar, and Marvin Morton discuss Safari Tailgate issues. Below: Members Carl Loftis, Larry Krause, Mark Petry admiring Points Judged Pontiacs.*





*Above: Bob Garacochea and Lou Calasibetta with the Best of Show Popular Vote Post War trophy for his 1958 Modified. Below: Ed Vassar with Larry Gorden? talking Safari in front of the '57s.*





*Above: Chapter President Mark Petry wishfully looking at a Swap Meet Safari for sale - wife Robin gave the thumbs down sign! Below: Member Tom Young promoting the CSC at his swap meet space.*



## 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: 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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## Oklahoma...OK!

**2007 POCI Convention in  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
35th Annual POCI National  
Convention July 10-July 14, 2007**  
Hosted by the Indian Nations Club, the  
38th Chapter of POCI

