

## Luke Miller's '56 Wagon Voted *Most Popular Safari* by Members

Pontiac-Oakland  
Club International

# Custom Safari Chapter

Summer 2018

Volume 22, Number 2

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**Luke Miller with his 1956 Safari during the Most Popular Vote Show at the POCI National Convention in the Wisconsin Dells.**

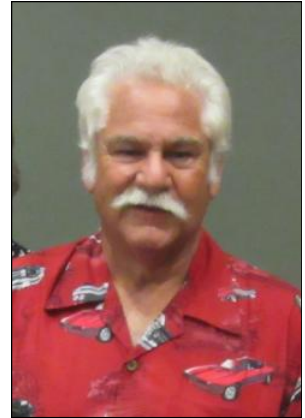
We now have a new National Convention chapter record! Ten Safari wagons along with their owners traveled to the beautiful Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells in Wisconsin in July. For those who have not visited the local area, it's a vacation destination for all family members—a Disneyland meets Las Vegas experience!

On the last full day of the Convention, Safarians gathered to vote for their most favorite Safari wagon of the show. With so many Safari wagons to view, selecting the most favorite was a challenge. They are all winners but when the tally was completed, Luke Miller's '56 Safari received the most votes from chapter members. Filling in for Lou Calasibetta, Tom Young awarded Luke with the Chapter's Most Popular Safari plaque.

# From the President's Garage

Hello to all of the Custom Safari Club members!

It's been a few months since many of you have heard from me here in the Garden State of New Jersey. I had to postpone my attendance at the POCI National Convention this past summer season. A real close friend of mine passed of a terminal illness. Always remember that we never know when illness will hit at home with a family member or a dear friend. There are only so many car events in the world but not many friends. I am signed-up for 2019 and plan on being there to do it again like I did in 1980. But this time I will not haul a 1957 Bonneville being pulled by a 1957 Safari. I promise! We were all young and wild back in the day!?



From what I hear there were about 400 cars at the National Convention in Wisconsin. Very cool and high numbers! I am really excited to report there were 10 Safari wagons there. A great turn out for sure!! Four 55's, two 56's, three 57's and one 57 TC four door. Now that is really cool huh. I know how hard it is to even see one Safari at a car show but 10 Safari wagons? Wow eeeee! You guys and girls did it again!! Not for this issue but I will send in photos of wagons that I have seen in various custom shows this past year. There have been some real beauties out there whose owners are not members of our chapter. I always try to get them to join. Some seemed interested while others are not.

Tom, Robin and Steve all helped out at the meeting. Tom had special Custom Safari Chapter key tags for the members. Could this be a future money maker for our club? You never know what will sell. We also talked about the future t-shirts for the members. Robin is working with a graphic designer on a great new look. Another t-shirt is just what my closet needs but I will find the room!

We have to be so glad that Rich, Robin and Tom are so active in our club guiding our future. We are now at 87 members strong and growing; a total like in the old days. Nice to see the interest in our low production wagons.

We can hope that next year's National Convention in Gettysburg will attract a lot of members. No telling....there can be a bunch there or a few. We will have to wait and see about that next July.

I am getting ready for the Carlisle and Hershey events here in the East.

So this is it till next time..... have a nice autumn and all be well.....

*Lou Calasibetta*

## ***Member Reminders:***

- *Chapter member dues are coming-up! Please pay by January 1st, 2019. Send your checks in the sum of \$21.00 addressed to the Custom Safari Chapter and mail it to: Robin Petry, 2806 Scarlet Drive, Augusta, GA 30909.*



# Behind the Wheel in the Editor's Seat

*Hello Everyone!*

*"Wow" is all I can say about 10 Safari wagons attend this year's convention. I really wish I could have seen that in person. I have been told that we have set a new record for a POCI convention which is a big difference from my past experiences of seeing 3, 4, maybe 5, I believe. Take a look in this issue to see all of them.*

*In regards to the national convention. Congratulations to Luke Miller for receiving the best Safari as voted by our members on the final day of the convention. Also congrats to the Bill & Carolyn Walkenshaw, Harold & Carol Cary, Luke Miller, Jim & Sandy Bowers and Noel & Starr Evans for receiving awards for their Safari wagons.*

*Just a reminder to everyone that submitting photos of you car is a good thing to do. Mike Gomez recently sent his thanks and appreciation for the article that Tom Young wrote about his '57 Safari wagon. Mike was so excited that he ask for additional printed copies so that he could give them to members of his family. Tom says that he will begin to focus on members of the mid-west and eastern parts of the states. We all know that there are plenty of great stories and photos to be shared with other members.*

*Once again I want to thank Tom Young for putting together a great newsletter. My employment status change and start-up business have literally consumed me and all of my free time..... Well I have free time occasionally, but it's either spent sleeping/recovering or mowing the lawn when it gets 8 inches high!! My '57 Safari is still on the lift with the non-adjusted 2-Jet staring at me whenever I walk by. So sad..... In any case we are making progress on getting our newsletter on-track with regular mailings. As our black cloud moves on to other misfortunate souls, we are proud to have placed a safe-guard in managing our Chapter data. We are now using the data caching website, DropBox, to maintain our Chapters essential files including our roster information and our newsletter templates. We now have built our future newsletter templates one year in advance so all we need to do is gather your photos, news stories and technical tips. So the moral of the story is to always have a back-up data source!*

*Rich*



To everyone's surprise, during our Chapter meeting at the National Convention, Tom Young introduced a new fund raising idea—a chapter key tag. The tag was manufactured in Minnesota by USAButtons.com. It does not get any better than having a *Made in the USA* key tag for your classic Safari wagon. The tag is made of clear acrylic plastic with a metal key ring attached. The bright colors are meant to make it easier to find your Safari keys. The design was produced by former Chapter member John Johnson years ago as a draft T-Shirt design. His design captures that vintage look that is a perfect compliment to any Safari wagon.

Folks who attended our annual Custom Safari Chapter meeting received a key tag for their immediate use. For those who have not receive a tag, Tom plans to distribute them at future POCI events. If you can't wait to get your hands on a tag, send Tom a check in the sum of \$3.75 to cover shipping and he will mail one to you. Supply is now every limited so request one now before they are all gone.

Tom Young, 204 Acacia Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320  
[pontiacom@ix.necom.com](mailto:pontiacom@ix.necom.com).

# We Extend Our Condolences



Custom Safari Chapter members have lost a long standing member: Kathleen 'Kathy' Susan Leigh Miller, wife of Luke Miller. She died on January 23, 2018, at her home in rural Caledonia, WI. She was being treated with chemo for cancer. Kathy was born on October 6, 1949, in Reedsburg, WI to Annabelle and Morris Leigh, who farmed in the Lime Ridge, WI area. Kathy loved horses from the time she was a very small girl, and soon had one of her own. Kathy attended White School, a rural one-room elementary less than a mile from her home, and graduated from Weston High School, Cazenovia, WI in 1967. She worked at the Reedsburg Food canning factory and then for Hancscraft Manufacturing before attending UW-Stout, in Menomonie, WI for a short time. She met her husband-to-be, Luke Miller, at a church youth function in 1964. Luke and Kathy were married on February 14, 1970 in Lime Ridge, WI. Daughter Jennifer was born in 1970 and son Luke in 1973. When she and Luke were courting, she would sit on his lap while he worked on a carburetor. Luke got his first (Chevrolet) Nomad in 1968.

Kathy joined him in restoring this car and several others over the years. Luke and

Kathy loved and have Safaris and Nomads. They would go on to participate in annual Nomad conventions all over the country without missing one for 47 years! Kathy worked for 26 years at Hancock Fabrics, in Milwaukee, primarily as an executive secretary, retiring in 2006. This was the perfect business for her since she loved working with fabrics and often made sample quilting projects for display in the store as well as at home and as gifts for relatives. Kathy was a patient, loving, gracious wife, mother, and grandmother, proud of her housekeeping skills and famous for her baked goods. A favorite activity was making cookies with her grandchildren. She and Luke froze and canned food from their garden. They were pillars of the Faith Bridge United Methodist Church, in Franksville, WI. Kathy enjoyed regularly attending services and especially baking

for the annual "cookie walk." Kathy was very supportive of her family. For almost 25 years, they traveled to Arizona several times a year to be with their daughter's family, as well as babysitting their youngest granddaughter in the Milwaukee area twice a week since her birth. Her interest in family led her to working on the genealogy of the Leigh and Jaquish ancestors which she has traced back to the early 1600's. She is survived by her husband Luke Miller, daughter Jennifer (Steven) Burks, son Luke (Amber) Miller, and grandchildren Cade and Avery Burks and Hannah Miller and brother, Dan (David Arms) Leigh.

## Editor's Note:

Luke is one of our long-time members and supporters of our Chapter. Looking back at our old some of our old convention photos of the '80s, you can find Luke and his '56 Safari wagon at most mid-west meets. For those who do not know Luke, you should know that he has a wealth of mechanical knowledge and full of patience. After all, he has worked for many years as a high school shop teacher.

We're glad to see Luke and his Safari back on the road.



**CALIFORNIA PONTIAC RESTORATION**  
**WWW.THELASTPONTIACSAFARI.COM**

**Body # 1296: Is this The Last Pontiac Safari?**

Join 1296 and CPR on their Historic Route 66 Tour  
Santa Monica CA to Pontiac IL  
July 4 – July 13, 2019

*Join The Adventure*

*Be part of the resurrection of  
1296  
and then*

*Tour with us on  
Historic Route 66.*

**CALIFORNIA PONTIAC  
RESTORATION**

**1520 E Edinger**

**Unit B**

**Santa Ana , CA 92705**

**Www.pontiacparts.net**

**Phone: 714-245-9800**

**Fax: 714-245 -9269**

**rich@pontiacparts.net**

**For the complete story visit  
Www.thelastpontiacsafari.com**



In 1982 Terry Twining purchased Safari 1296 as a parts car for his Safari build. When his project was complete he stored 1296 under a tarp on the sand of Muskegon MI located between Lake Michigan and Lake Muskegon. For 35 years the moisture in the sand condensed on 1296 virtually destroying all of the interior panels and a major portion of the lower exterior body. In the spring of 2018, Terry auctioned 1296 on EBay. Rich Plastino of California Pontiac Restoration realized that the body number 1296 was 4 higher than the official GM production number of 1292. Could this be the last Safari? Rich bid and won the auction and plans to do a functional resurrection of 1296 and tour it on RT 66. Join Rich in the project and tour with him on Historic Route 66 --- or just tour.

For more project information and to post comments go to:

**Www.thelastpontiacsafari.com**

# The Secretary's Report

## Custom Safari Chapter Meeting Minutes POCI National Meeting, 6/26/2018, Wisconsin Dells, WI

**22 Members in attendance:** James & Sandy Bowers, Lee and Ruth Hadley, Jack Johnson, Jack White, Andrea Cook, Tom Young, Mark & Robin Petry, Noel and Starr Evans, Carl Loftis, Wilf Kaszanits, Harold and Carol Cary, Luke Miller, Zach Platt, Jim Notch, Bill and Carol Walkinshaw, Lars Elofsson,

**2 Visitors:** Ernie Abariotes, Justin LaCalir

Robin Petry and Tom Young called the meeting to order at 2:03pm Tom explained that our president, Lou Calasibetta, was unable to attend this year due to a dear friend passing away and needing to stay to help with arrangements. The group extended their condolences to Lou.



**2017 minutes of the chapter meeting in Forth Worth TX:** Were printed in the newsletter after last year's meeting. Robin passed around a copy. No adjustments made and accepted as submitted.

**2018 Treasurer's report:** 7/11/17 Starting balance: \$2774.25 plus dues income: \$328.50) minus \$504.52 Expenses (1 newsletter and postage \$376, Best Safari Plaque 2018 and updating display trophy \$70.36; 2017 and 2018 convention snacks 32.76 and 25.40 respectively) = 6/26/18 ending balance \$2598.23.

**2018 Membership report:** June 2017 we started with 75 members. 5 have joined since then. Jim Notch joined today. Current membership as of 6/26/18 = 81 members.

### Old Business:

**Chapter T-Shirt:** Tom Young has been working on finding the best resolution pictures for the new club t-shirt. He has put them in Drop Box. This will improve the quality of the screening. An update was provided in the most recent newsletter. Robin will now initiate follow up with Marissa Johnson of CREAM Design and Print to begin the process. The plan is to have members pre-order then estimate extra ones to have for future members. Some members are interested in the current design also being available. Robin will ask about the option of including that in the ordering process.

**Newsletter Support:** Because of health and technology issues (Rich's laptop fell and the data was irretrievable). Tom Young has worked closely with Rich Pye to retrieve as much data as possible and streamline the newsletter process. Tom is using Drop Box to download and Rich can retrieve from it. The process should put us back on track for 4 newsletters a year (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter). Tom handed out copies of the newsletter just released to the website and mailed to members. He recommended members present review but since they have a home copy coming to pass it on to someone else as a recruitment tool. Lars Elofsson has not been getting his newsletters. Robin gave him copies of the last 2 and will check with Rich to make sure his address is correct.

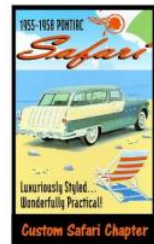
### New Business:

**Smoke Signals 2 part article on Safaris:** Members express congratulations and appreciation to Dennis Dana and all the people who worked with him on the excellent 2 part article printed in the Smoke Signals. Members commented that they learned information they did not know and it has given us national exposure not only about our cars but also the Custom Safari Chapter.

**Tom Young presented members present with a surprise:** a key chain with the 1955-58 Custom Safari picture created in the past by former member, John Johnson. It might be something to consider as fund raising option to sell to members.

**Chapter Website:** Tom led discussion about finding the balance between those who want the traditional contact versus social media options. Goal for now is to update our website. Printed newsletter will continue. We're slowly expanding to Facebook. Lars Elofsson volunteered to help us.

**Chapter Officers:** Rich Pye and Robin Petry willing to continue in current roles for the next year. If other members see any of these as areas they would like to move into then please contact any of the officers. Group approved this and thanked them for being willing to do this. Robin will ask Lou if he wants to continue another year. If not, then we will need to initiate a search process.



# Chapter Meeting Minutes: (continued)

**Group Open Discussion:** Tom shared the interesting discovery of the 1957 Custom Safari #1298 by Rich Plastino. Robin Petry shared information that Steve Cook sent about a 1957 Safari for sale by Stephen Surman. Robin Petry shared information sent by Daniel Bird and his wife sent looking for a Safari to buy.

Wilf Kaszanits opened for discussion we consider making a donation to the Pontiac-Oakland Museum and Resource Center especially now that it is full self-supported. The group was in support of making a donation. \$200 was approved.

Members at the convention to meet Thursday, June 28th at 1pm at Popular vote Custom Safari Class area to vote for the "Best Safari" at the convention and determine which member drove their Safari the longest distance.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Robin Petry  
CSC Secretary/ Treasurer



Chapter meeting: **Above left:** Lee & Ruth Hadley. **Above:** Tom Young at the Chapter meeting talking about the chapter newsletter.



Attendees at the Custom Safari Chapter meeting at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

# The 2018 National Convention Report

So how “did it go” at the Convention? Well, everything was “Ducky” at the Wisconsin Dells! Where ever you drove or walked, Ducks were be found everywhere. You could even find Duck road crossings! For decades, ample waterways have provided a natural environment for Ducks to provide land & water tours for visitors. Most everyone who attended the Convention took a Duck tour including Mark & Robin Petry as shown on the right.

Safarians gathered in record numbers in the beautiful and entertaining Wisconsin Dells to enjoy 5 days of Pontiac excitement. Besides Duck rides, the Dells offered a plethora of recreational opportunities for everyone.



**Quack Duck Facts:** A Duck is an amphibious vehicle first produced by GM in 1942. 21,000 were produced by 1945. They were used for landings in Italy, Normandy and most major landings in the South Pacific by the US Army. Ducks were retired in 1958.



Safarians gathered at our annual Chapter Popular Vote event at the Chula Vista Resort.



The Wisconsin Dells is one of the largest entertainment venues in our country! Waterparks can be found everywhere. You could go on an African Safari or learn to be a lumberjack. You could take a old train ride or visit a circus museum. If museums are too dull for you, how about a high speed boat ride on the river or jet-line over a pond? You could hit the track on a go-cart too. Perhaps you like to watch a world famous water show or perhaps go dancing at one of many music venues. Yes indeed, the Dells has something for everyone!



**Above:** The North-Freedom Historic Railroad museum.

**Left & Lower Left:** A full size Trojan Horse & water fall from the Noah's Ark Water Park—America's largest water park.

**Below Right:** Look closely at the photo. The upside down "White House" is a mystery until you enter it.



The Dells offer plenty of River sunset dinner cruises and fine dining opportunities too.

# Safarians Set A New Record!



Impressive! 10 Safari wagons!!

This was truly a National gathering of Safari wagons. They came from as far away as Florida, Arizona, the North East and the Mid-West.



# Our Chapter's Best Safari Award Goes To Luke Miller For His 1956 Safari Wagon

**Right:** Tom Young congratulates Luke for his well-earned recognition from fellow Chapter Safarians.

**Below:** Luke and his '56 Safari wagon. They have traveled many miles over the years attending car shows.



## POCI National Convention Awards



**Above:** Noel & Starr Evans. Steve Cook, the Conventions Awards Master, and Mark Petry.



Our own Steve Cook continues to a wonderful job as the POCI's "awards master of ceremonies. We all appreciate his clear voice, ability to multitask and maintain a great sense of humor, especially when things go a little stray. Job well done Steve!

Starting from the left: Jim and Sandy Bowers, 1949-64 Modified, Outstanding  
 Bill and Carol Walkinshaw, 1955-58 Custom Safari Only, Outstanding  
 Harold and Carol Cary, 1955-58 Custom Safari Only, Outstanding  
 Noel and Starr Evans, 1955-58 Custom Safari Only, Most Outstanding  
 Jack and Jill White, Outstanding  
 Luke Miller, 1955-58 Custom Safari Only, Outstanding

# POCI National Convention—2018 Wisconsin Dells



**Above:** The Safari wagon line-up at the Popular Vote Show. Starting from the left going right: Luke's '56 Safari, the Carys '55 Safari and the Walkenshaw's 55 Safari.



**Left:** Lee & Ruth Hadley with their all original '57 TC wagon.

**Lower Left:** Planning a road trip. Star & Noel Evans. In the background, Lee Hadley and Jack White.

**Below:** Carol & Harold Cary with their '55 Safari.



**Right:** A customized '57 Safari wagon owned by Carl Loftis. He drove his Safari from Michigan and took the ferry across the Great Lakes during his travels to the Convention.





**Above: The Safari wagon line-up at the Popular Vote Show.** Starting from the left going right: The Hadley's '57 TC wagon, the Evan's '57 Safari, the Petry's '56 Safari, a UTV, Luke's '56 Safari, the Carl's '55 Safari and barely in view, the Walkenshaw's 55 Safari.

**Left:** Jack Johnson with his '55 Safari.

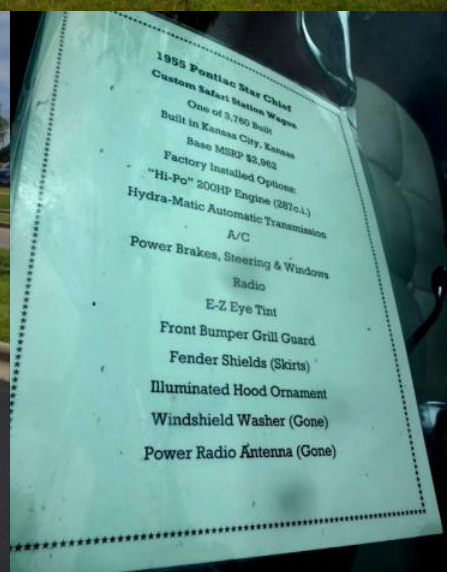
**Below, right:** Jack's and Zack's '55 Safari wagons.



**Right:** The Walkenshaws with their '55 Safari during the Popular Vote show.



Zack Platt drove his fully loaded '55 Safari all the way from Florida. Wow! And it has factory AC too!! List of options on right —>



- 1955 Pontiac Star Chief
- Custom Safari Station Wagon
- One of 3,760 Built
- Built in Kansas City, Kansas
- Base MSRP \$2,962
- Factory Installed Options:
- "Hi-Po" 200HP Engine (287c.i.)
- Hydra-Matic Automatic Transmission
- A/C
- Power Brakes, Steering & Windows
- Radio
- E-Z Eye Tint
- Front Bumper Grill Guard
- Fender Shields (Skirts)
- Illuminated Hood Ornament
- Windshield Washer (Gone)
- Power Radio Antenna (Gone)



**Above:** Another view of the Popular Vote Car Show line-up.

**Below Left:** Jim Bowers and his modified '57 Safari.



**Below:** Carol and Harold Cary with their custom display.



**Above:** Noel & Starr Evans.



**Right:** Carl Loftis with his '57 Safari in the background.



A Show-Stopper spotted in the resort parking lot . A GMC cab with a very custom conversion to a car hauler & camper.



The daily swap meet offered parts of interest to almost everyone who walked through the vendor area.



Safari wagons huddled together during a rain shower a day before the Popular Vote show.

# Another Great Wounded Warrior Show

Story by Tom Young

It was another sunny August day in Redondo Beach, CA when chapter Safarians came together to lend their support for the Wounded Warrior charity program & car show. Like fine wine, the show just gets better & better. Show organizer and chapter Safarian **Mike Green** (wearing red hat in photo below) reports that over 200 cars attended and more than \$23,000 raised.

Five Safari wagons (one 55 & five 57s) attended the show along with 11 chapter members.



Once again, a wide range of cars were seen from the 1920s to modern muscle cars. The show is rapidly becoming one of the best multi-make gatherings on the west coast! But remember, this show is a fund raiser so trophies were only issued to the top 15 most popular cars. One of those trophies was awarded to **Tim McDonald** for this custom blue **1957 Safari wagon**. Congratulations Tim! His Safari gleamed in the Southern California sunlight and everyone took notice!



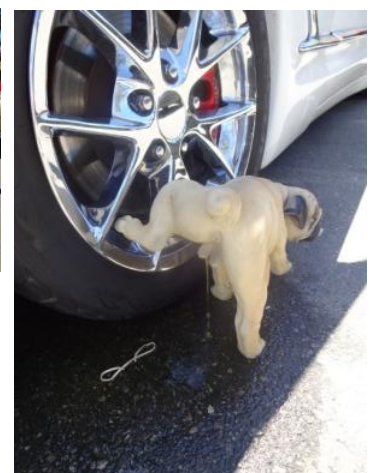
Honors for the longest distance travel goes to our one and only **Jack Johnson** with his '55 Safari wagon. He traveled from Arizona to attend the show! Now that is some miles traveled!!



**Rich Plastino's** Safari #9 and **Bill Baquet's** Safari #35 are in the process of restoration but their enthusiasm at the show for Safari

wagons was very obvious and contagious too. Rich brought his very cool GMC 'resto-mod' red truck. **Marvin Morton's** all original '57 Safari 2 dr wagon remained at home too with a need for rocker arm repair on a freshly rebuilt engine. He took the opportunity to help guide arrival cars to their appropriate parking locations.

**Danny Arant** tried to bring his dark blue '57 Safari 2 dr wagon but electrical gremlins were alive and well. They caused the battery to drain to the point of no-return. Instead, Danny brought his cool custom built white bodied '53 Vette The engine is an impressive sight to see. He also brought his pet dog which engaged in a natural position for kidney relief. The sight of his dog was quite a spectacle! If you look closely, you will notice that his dog is not real.



*Disclaimer:* The yellow fluid seen (right) is not actual dog urine!



**Randy Kerdoon** attended the show with this '57 Safari despite a previous long evening working as the MC for a large car show in Glendale, CA. Remember to check out his podcast, *Talking About Cars*, on iTunes, Soundcloud & on-line at [talkingaboutcars.net](http://talkingaboutcars.net). You can also try Facebook or YouTube.

**Ron Walker** brought his spectacular all black custom '57 Safari wagon. If you ever wanted to see a perfect body panels, just take a look at Ron's Safari. Wow!

**Michael Gomez** parked his very original family '57 Safari wagon into the row of Safari wagons completing an impressive row of Safari wagons.



**Chapter members** ( from left to right): Marvin Morton, Randy Kerdoon, Tom Young, Ron Walker, Tim McDonald and Jack Johnson.

**Right:** Randy Kerdoon (with his Safari wagon in the background) and Bill Baquet without his Safari!



**Above:** Rich Plastino and Danny Arant engaged in joyful conversation.

**Left:** Jack Johnson met friends at the show who brought a pack of unbelievably cute dogs.

# MEMBER PHOTO STORY

## The Walkenshaw's '56 Safari

### *A member of the family!*

At the Convention Interview  
By Tom Young

It is hard to believe that the Safari wagon shown below was sitting in a mid-west wrecking yard back in 1967. Yet the vision and pure determination of a young Bill Walkenshaw, along with a hundred bucks, is all that it took to start this Safari on a new life that would eventually lead to a permanent membership in the Walkenshaw family. But the relationship between Bill and his Safari was tested first by the sale of the Safari to a friend a year after Bill had hauled the Safari home.

(continued next page)



**Above Left:** The Walkenshaw's aged-cracked hood ornament. **Center:** Carolyn learns about an old car dealer trick; she applies motor oil to the plastic which quickly makes the cracks nearly disappear. **Right:** The ornament looks like new after it's first bathing of motor oil. Carolyn now has the duty of keeping her favorite hood ornament looking fresh.



**Left:** After 40 years from new, the paint and chrome on Bill's Safari still shines well. The interior looks great. Not bad for a Safari wagon that has just over 21,000 miles since it's restoration.

This is not the first Pontiac in the Walkenshaw family. Bills father drove a '56 Star Chief hardtop in Bills younger days.

Note the tow hitch which makes this Safari ready to tow a vintage travel trailer. We can't wait to see the Safari towing their family trailer.

Then came the most important love of this life, Carolyn, whom he married in 1971. But Bill did not give up on his relationship with this wrecking yard Safari. Shortly after his marriage Bill was able to buy-back the Safari and this time, he planned to restore it! No time was wasted in the restoration. The engine & transmission were rebuilt and Bill did the body and paint work himself. Well, almost all himself. According to Carolyn, she was not initially impressed when she first saw the Safari. But her thoughts changed when their daughter, Shawn who was just two years old, started to spend time with Bill helping out with the restoration. Carolyn new that she was going to like the Safari.

Shawn once wore a pink jacket and gave Bill her support by sitting on a dirty wheel. With that kind of moral support, by 1978, and with 100 test miles on a completed restoration, Bill proudly drove his family in their freshly restored Safari wagon to the POCI Nationals and was awarded Best Safari at the show. That first road trip sealed the Safari wagon's permanent membership into the Walkenshaw family. Since then, the Walkenshaws have logged over 21,000 miles while making a life time of motoring memories along the way.



POCI Nationals in Florida, 1978.

**Below:** Bill and Carolyn's Safari parked next to the massive in-door water amusement park at the Chula Vista Resort, 6/18.



# It Happen in Las Vegas One Spring Day!

The old saying goes “ what happens in Las Vegas....stays in Las Vegas”. That’s what Robin Clark had hoped after he met Tom Young in “Sin City” for lunch followed by a rousing two hours off non-stop fun at the Pinball Hall of Fame Museum. Robin claimed to be a pinball wizard but after a 40 year break from practice, “Tommy” proved to be the wizard when it came to winning games with modern day pinball machines.

The Pinball Hall of Fame Museum was established about 12 years ago as a place where the people of all ages can come and enjoy hundreds of pinball and arcade machines from the 1940s to present day. For about 15 dollars in quarters, Robin & Tom enjoyed a non-stop roller coaster of laughs as they discovered that their reflexes were not as good as they use to be. Robin has challenged “Tommy” for a rematch next spring.



## Pin Ball Hall of Fame Museum

1610 E. Tropicana  
Las Vegas, NV 89116

702 597-2627

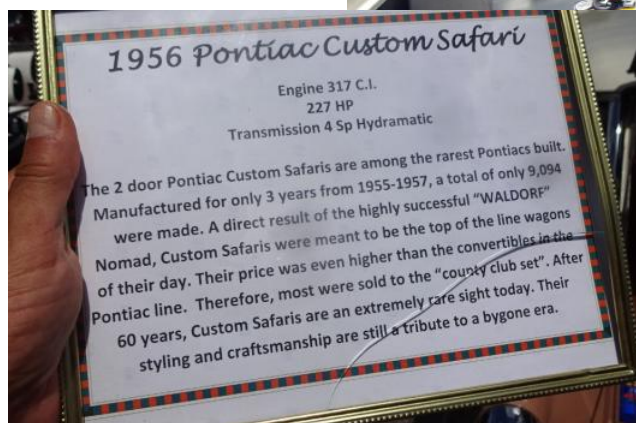
[www.pinballmuseum.org](http://www.pinballmuseum.org)



Robin Clark playing on a nicely restored 1957 Williams “Circus” pinball machine.

## A Great Way to Introduce Your Safari

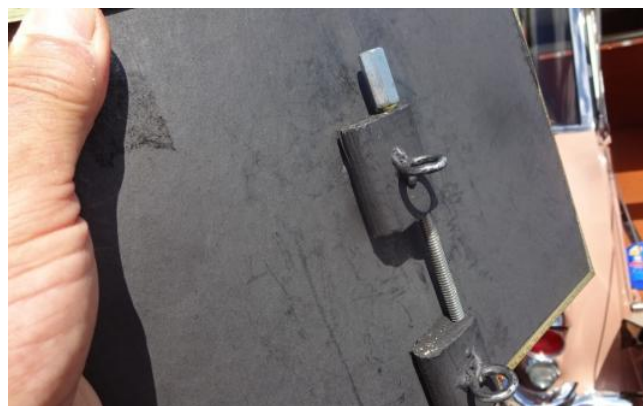
Our very own Mark Petry has created a great way to present your Safari at a car show. It involves a picture frame mounted on an engine air cleaner. Take a look at the pictures!



Mark used a simple, low cost picture frame that can be purchased at most "big-box" stores.



The long nut is used to attach the threaded shaft to the top of the carburetor/air cleaner. The picture frame then slides onto the shaft.



Mark glued two blocks of wood onto the back of the picture frame. Both blocks have drilled holes to accommodate a long threaded shaft & attaching nut. Note that there are also eye-rings attached for use with a larger shaft.

**Right:** Mark Petry—man of invention!

Thank you Mark for sharing a wonderfully simple and low cost way to enhance the display of our Safari wagons.

Does anybody else have some inventions or reproductions to share ?



## Technical Tip #3

Here is a simple reminder for everyone. Use a battery disconnect switch when your car is not in use. It will protect your battery from draining and prevent wires from shorting.

If you own a few running old cars, you have likely forgotten to keep all of the batteries charged during long term storage. Worst yet, you may have forgotten that your car is now over a half century old and that it has long exceeded its manufacturer service life. The wiring has likely gone through extreme heat and cold, been bounced around on rough roads and been exposed to high humidity and or dryness. The wiring is now likely showing some age. You don't want to learn the hard way when wiring fails so consider keeping your car batteries charged and disconnected from car wiring system when not in use.

New battery cut-off switches can be found most auto part stores. Prices may range from a few dollars in used condition at a swap meet to over \$20 new in some stores for post style switches. Be cautious about the quality of the product you purchase. There are many poorly manufactured switches out on the market. Once installed, use a battery protector/sealer in spray or liquid form to reduce corrosion. Permatex offers a good quality protector/sealer in spray form which works well.

**Right:** Properly installed disconnect switch on the ground side of the battery.



Above image taken from the November, 1956 issue of the Pontiac Service Craftsman News



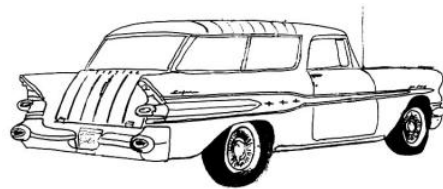
### Quick Reference: **BATTERY DISCONNECT SAFETY MODIFICATION**

**Where to buy:** eBay, nearly all major brand auto parts stores or swap meets.

**Estimate Cost:** From \$5.00 to \$25.00 new for post mount knob style switch.

**How to apply:** Most post mount switches will require a 7/16 end box wrench to loosen and tighten the post clamp nut. Install the switch on the negative (ground) side of the battery. The negative side makes for clean installation. Use of the positive side post may lead to a short against the battery hold down bracket. Once installed, test the switch. Don't forget to protect your terminal and switch against corrosion with a spray or liquid.

# Safari Search



Safari wagons listed are found on Craigslist. Owners may not be POCI members.



**1955 Pontiac Safari 2 door Station Wagon** . \$34,500 (Harrisonville Mo) Original Numbers Matching 4 Barrel Motor & Automatic Trans. Oklahoma Car (Rust free). All new interior. New re-chromed bumpers. Nice driving Original Survivor car. Call Gary @816-258-1932 or Bill @816-365-5535 Please no calls after 8:00pm May consider classic trades.



**1956 Pontiac Star Chief Safari Wagon**. A super rare, chrome-plated Milestone jewel ready to be polished. Nicely optioned. 99% complete including the hundreds of chrome & stainless bits, correct seats, E-Z-Eye, leather, vinyl & mylar interior ragged but complete with all stainless for patterns. Straight, Sandlewood & Ivory until a deranged chevy guy painted the whole car orange & cut the wheel wells (replacements shown). 5-6 rust spots, nothing major. Options include: All stock, 224 HP 316 V/8, 4-speed Jetaway, 4BBL, Oil Bath, P/S, P/B, Radio, Heaters, E-Z-Eye, Masteguard front, wing-guards & Dual exh. tip rear bumpers, stainless skirts, Backup lights, W/shield washer, lighted Hood Orn. \$8500/OBO



**1957 Pontiac Safari**. \$45,500. Rare 4 dr 1st introduced in 1957 with Bonneville interior and stainless rear 1/4 sections. 1,850 produced. This #s matching tri-power wagon is very rare. Less than 5 miles since complete mech rebuild on rust free Colorado wgn. New paint, frt & back leather seats, windlacing. Well optioned. PS,PB, Parking warning light, ele wipers, tissue dispenser, day/night mirror, wonderbar radio, sun visor, roof rack, ill fender ornaments. Will consider partial trade plus cash. Car less than 1 hr north of Bellingham. Easy to import. Gerry (604) 940-5991

## PARTS For Sale

**1955 Pontiac:** Parting out a 2 door Chieftain. Email Rich Pye at [rpye@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rpye@rochester.rr.com).

**1955-57 Pontiac:** Custom Safari new gas tanks, \$399.00 plus shipping. New lower tailgate assembly, \$850.00 plus shipping. NOS 1956 Pontiac lit hood ornament, original box, \$600. Jay Hammond. 302 322-1833 [jhchevyparts@aol.com](mailto:jhchevyparts@aol.com).

**1957 Pontiac:** Front brake drums complete with backing plates, shoes, wheel cylinders & wheel bearings, \$100 ea. 2 radios & speaker housings, maroon & green, \$150 ea. Complete rear differential, 3.23 gears, \$100. 5 hub caps, good cond., \$100. Call Bill Hanners at 239 543-3510 FL

**1956 Pontiac:** 1/4 panel wheel well trim moldings. Driver side. (A) '56 Safari, NOS, \$375. (B) 56 hntp & conv, good used, \$325. Ed Vassar, Dunnigan, CA 707 246-4426



**1957 Pontiac:** Firewall heater core box water pipe seals (shown below). New repro. Last set. Pair (L & R). \$35.00 includes shipping. Tom Young, 204 Acacia, Newbury Park, CA 91320 805 375-1320



## WANTED

**1955 Pontiac:** OEM side view mirror (#519802) ? And a OEM non-glare rear view mirror (#51170 or #988647) ? For a '55 Safari. Not sure about the correct part #'s. NOS is not necessary but would like to find something in good to very good condition with minimal pitting. [gpark14@aol.com](mailto:gpark14@aol.com)

**1957 Safari Wanted:** If you have any leads, please contact Dwight at [dwhitmire3153@charter.net](mailto:dwhitmire3153@charter.net) or call cell 770 851-1010.

**1955-57 Pontiac station wagon:** Exterior Tee handle for lift-gate on with as many attached parts as possible. Steve Cook [jumbodog54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jumbodog54@sbcglobal.net) or 314 795-4700.

**1957 Pontiac:** AC components that mount to engine, brackets, compressor, condenser, etc. Rich Pye. [rpye@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rpye@rochester.rr.com)

**1962 Pontiac Safari Wagon:** Looking for American or Canadian models (see example below) Leads appreciated. Contact Daral Travis at [meteorman56@icloud.com](mailto:meteorman56@icloud.com)



**TO PLACE AN AD:** Looking to sell parts or a car? Send your request to Rich Pye at [rpye@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rpye@rochester.rr.com). Your ad should be related to 1955 to 1958 Pontiacs and include photos when possible.

# 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 P.O. Box 68, Maple Plain, MN 55359 US Website: [www.poci.org](http://www.poci.org)

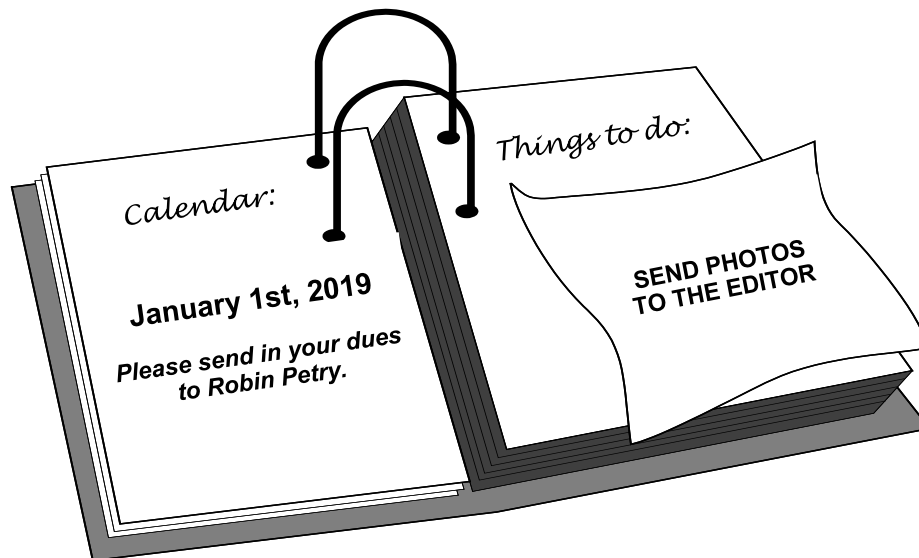
Annual Dues are **\$21.00**. Renewals are due January 1st of each year. New member dues are pro-rated quarterly from January 1st. Applicants are encouraged to maintain membership in the POCI. Send payment to the Secretary/Treasurer, Robin Petry.

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**In the next issue of *SAFARI NEWS*...**

Our FALL issue will feature:  
More National Convention Photos, technical repair & restoration articles, and Safari member short stories.