

Winter 2023-2024

Pontiac-Oakland Club
International, Inc.

*Custom
Safari
Chapter*

1955-58 Star Chief
Custom Safari wagons

Inside this issue:

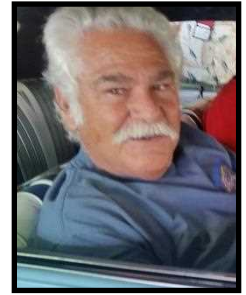
POCI National Convention News

Feature Story: *Online FRAUD*

From the President's Garage

Hello everyone!

It has been a long time since my last letter to you. I feel like I've been on an island somewhere out in the big sea for a long time. I am very glad to know that our newsletter editor, Tom, is back in good health. He's the man who really works hard on getting our newsletters and updates to us. Then there is Robin and Rich who work on getting the newsletter sent to us and placed into our website. It's great to have our team back!



Now that we are back, please remember that we collect member dues every year so, try to keep up with Robin and get your dues in right now. We just hate to lose anyone.

Our chapter is one of the earliest national chapters in the POCI. It has been such an honor for me to be part of our chapter since the very beginning. I still can remember some of the early days when we had dark hair. We were so eager to build and enjoy our Safari wagons. Now, we take our time with our wagons, making them better at our own pace. Let's keep our chapter going!

There seems to be some big changes in the wagon world. Many years ago, there were no major auctions. You had to search for a Safari in local papers, used car lots, or at a local car show. Today, some Pontiac Safari wagons are setting records in high dollar sales in auctions, especially the 1958 Safari wagon. Chapter member Joe Wheat saw his ride hit a record price in a recent auction in Florida. A few weeks later, a modified pro built black and red 1958 Safari wagon sold at auction in Arizona. It is great to see the interest in high end wagons. In the past, my shop, the Stillwater Garage, has built two nice '58s. The '58 Safari you see on the cover of this newsletter is a wagon called, *Bonneywood*. I built it for a chapter member. I also built a pink and white 1958 Safari with '58 Nomad tall gate. They are unique rides. Just the other night while I was browsing on the computer, I saw more '58s being built as well. Finally! The '58 wagons are getting the attention they deserve.

While our newsletter distribution was on pause, chapter member Bradley Wheeler continued to work on collecting 1955-58 Safari wagon cowl tag information. Luke Miller of Wisconsin traveled around our country finding forgotten Safari wagons and sharing photos of his finds on Facebook. I cannot forget my old buddy, Len Sokol, who drove Joe's '58 wagon at the Mecum auction in January. As you can see, our chapter members have been very busy.

Well, it seems that the POCI Western Regionals in Tucson, AZ, was a hit. Tom and a large group of chapter members enjoyed the event. I believe that there just might be another one some were in the west sometime in the future so, please show your support by attending the next Western Regional event. They're not offered very often.

Not too long ago, I was in Tulsa, OK where I met with long time past POCI leader, Larry Cyder. He told me that the convention host hotel is sold out. This means that members know that this year's convention will be a good one. So, get those wagons tuned-up. Check the fluids and roll on over to the 2024

convention in Arkansas. Remember to visit our chapter display table and please attend our chapter meeting. It happens only once a year.

Let's make our chapter ever better this season. Never forget we are a unique bunch of people who enjoy Safari wagons so, let's keep them rolling.

Lou



Lou's custom '57 Star Chief 4 dr Safari wagon.

Under the Hood with your Editor



We are back!

It took me over 10 months to shake off the worst health impacts of Long-Term Covid-19, but now I am back to work on getting our newsletters out to you.

Seems like we are going backwards but the next issue you will receive will be our SPRING newsletter, followed by the long overdue FALL newsletter of last year. We are catching up!

Our spring season is here meaning that it's time for everyone to attend car shows and other club events. So, start making plans to spend time at some of our gatherings.

Here are some dates & times regarding our chapter's activities at this year's POCI National Convention in Springdale, Arkansas:

- **July 17th: POCI Welcome Party** 6-9pm
- **July 18th: Annual Chapter meeting** 10-11am
- **July 20th: Our Popular Vote gathering** 1030 am

Look for more details in our SPRING newsletter.

FREE!

List your Safari or parts for sale in our newsletter. If you are looking for Safari or parts, you can list your wants too.

The classified ads section of our newsletter is distributed through social media. If you place an ad, it will receive a lot of exposure.

Contact me at pontiacom1957@gmail.com.

Cover Page: The one and only 1958 customized Safari—*Bonewood*. Built for Bob Garacochea by the Stillwater Garage, NJ. Photo by Tom Young.

Feature Story: Online FRAUD

For those who have lived through the computer revolution of the 1980s & 1990s, who could have imagined the growth of fraud within our hobby through the use of computers or cell phones?

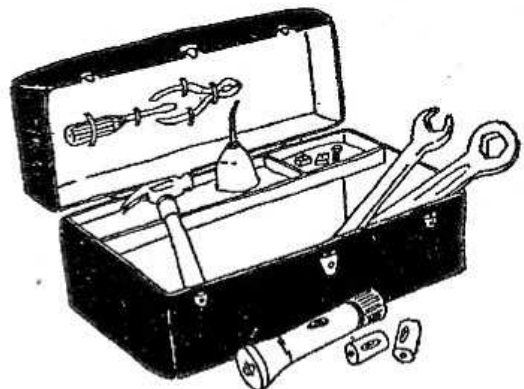
In less than 10 days, two 1957 Safari wagons previously sold in public auctions recently appeared on eBay. They were posted by scammers who cut & paste photos to create false eBay auctions. Fortunately, POCI members quickly recognized and reported the fraud to eBay.

The scammer auctions were quickly removed by eBay.

These incidents remind us that in today's world, fraud has reached well into our hobby.

Be alert. Show that you care, and help each other stay safe from scams.

Tom



We are still collecting dues for 2024.

Don't forget to update your email, address, and phone number. Let us know the model year of Safari wagon(s) that you have too. Robin likes to keep an accurate chapter roster. Thank you.

We still have chapter t-shirts available. Contact **Robin Petry** at petrymail@yahoo.com

Custom Safari Chapter Membership Application

Please print clearly or type.

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____

Email _____

POCI # _____

In order to update the chapter's records, we'd like to know the style, body number, trim, paint, and accessories codes for your Safaris. This information can be found on the firewall data plate. Include a recent photo of your Safari and email it to: pontiacom1957@gmail.com

STYLE	BODY NO.	TRIM	PAINT	ACC

We offer two choices for membership. You can elect an annual membership with a **PRINTED** quarterly newsletter feature for \$25 per year or you can elect an **ELECTRONIC** annual membership with the quarterly newsletter emailed to you in PDF format for \$8 per year.

If you elect the ELECTRONIC option, you will receive the newsletter one or more weeks earlier than the PRINTED newsletter.

Printed newsletter annual membership: \$25.00*

Electronic newsletter annual membership: \$8.00

We offer two ways to pay for your membership dues:

PayPal: Send funds to: petrymail@yahoo.com

or

Check: Payable to **Custom Safari Chapter, POCL**.

Mail to: Robin Petry, 2806 Scarlett Drive, Augusta GA 30909

IMPORTANT! If you opt for the electronic subscription, don't forget to indicate your preferred email address. Leave us a phone number just in case your email address is written incorrectly. Thank you.

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 Pontiac-Oakland Club, International. Go to www.poci.org to sign up or renew your membership.

*** Please contact Robin Petry for international membership rates if you live outside the USA.**

Safari Wagons In The News

Auction Report

Bring a Trailer—Auction
March 3, 2024

SOLD for an undisclosed amount!

1957 Pontiac Star Chief Custom 2 door Safari wagon. P757H29424 Power Steering, Power brakes, Tri-Power, Factory AC, Tinted Windows, Lighted Fender Ornaments, Spinner Wheel Covers, Wonderbar Radio, Electric Antenna, 8-way manual front seats. Sold by T.Wheeley, FI to a undisclosed buyer post auction.



A Valentine's Day Gift

What a gift!

If your name is Cindy Kuster, then you may consider yourself a fortunate Safari fan who recently became the new care taker of a very nice, ready for the road, 1955 Pontiac Custom Safari 2 dr wagon.

We envy you, and hope to see you with your kind and giving husband at a future gathering of Safarians.

This Safari comes equipped with a updated drive train and brake system. It also has AC which is perfect for some summertime road trips.

Just look at them fancy wheels!



The year was 1999.

The location was Buffalo,
New York.

The event was the National
Convention sponsored by the
Pontiac-Oakland Club
International.

The activity was a gathering
of 1955-57 Safari wagons for
use in developing our past
club t-shirt and emblem
designs.



A Flash From Our Past



On the Market

From eBay

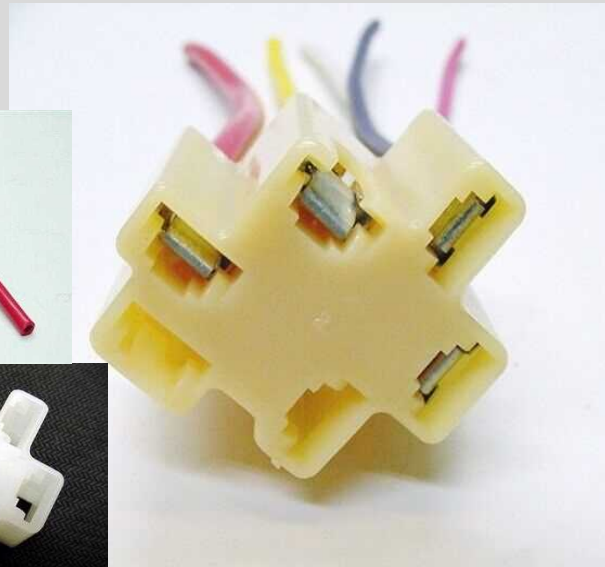
REPRODUCTION PART: **6-Way Ignition Switch Connector Pigtail Plug Pontiac 1957-67.**

Not long ago, at least one eBay vendor started to offer a reproduction ignition switch connector used on 1957 & 58 Pontiacs.

The plastic plug connects to the back of the dash board ignition switch.

The original design of the plastic plug was a technological jump forward in using pressure pin connectors rather than the attaching ignition switch wires with screws. However, over time, some plastic plugs have deteriorated and have become unsafe.

Now you have an opportunity to replace that old connector with a new one!



Connector with wires available for about \$30 or without wires for about \$10 from eBay sellers.

Rare Vintage 1960's BANDAI #714 'Pontiac Pick Up' Friction Tin Toy Japan w/Box



From eBay.

How many times have you seen one of these?

It's a 1958 Pontiac "El Camino" styled pickup tin friction drive toy. Looks like new with the original box.

This model was recently offered by eBay seller, *loka-tienda*, in the price range of about \$225.00.

Perhaps this model could inspire someone in our chapter to make a real pickup out of a Chieftain wagon?

Social Media Report

592 Members Strong!

One thing is for sure..... Our chapter Facebook membership continues to grow.

We continue to share our enthusiasm with people who are interested in Custom Safari wagons.

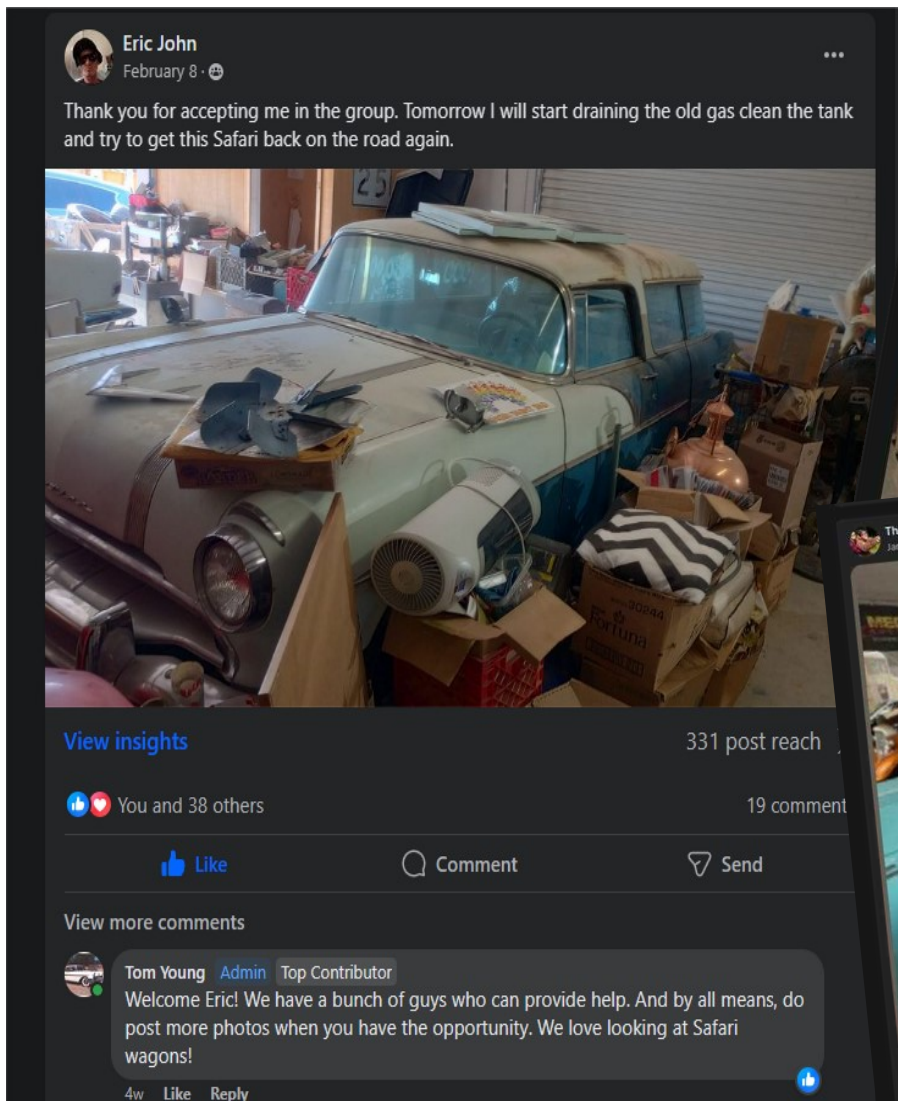
Give us a try on Facebook.



Join Us!

Sign onto the Facebook as a new member. Set your PRIVACY settings to maximum. Then search for us at:

Custom Safari Chapter, POCI 1955 thru 1958 Pontiac



Fraud!

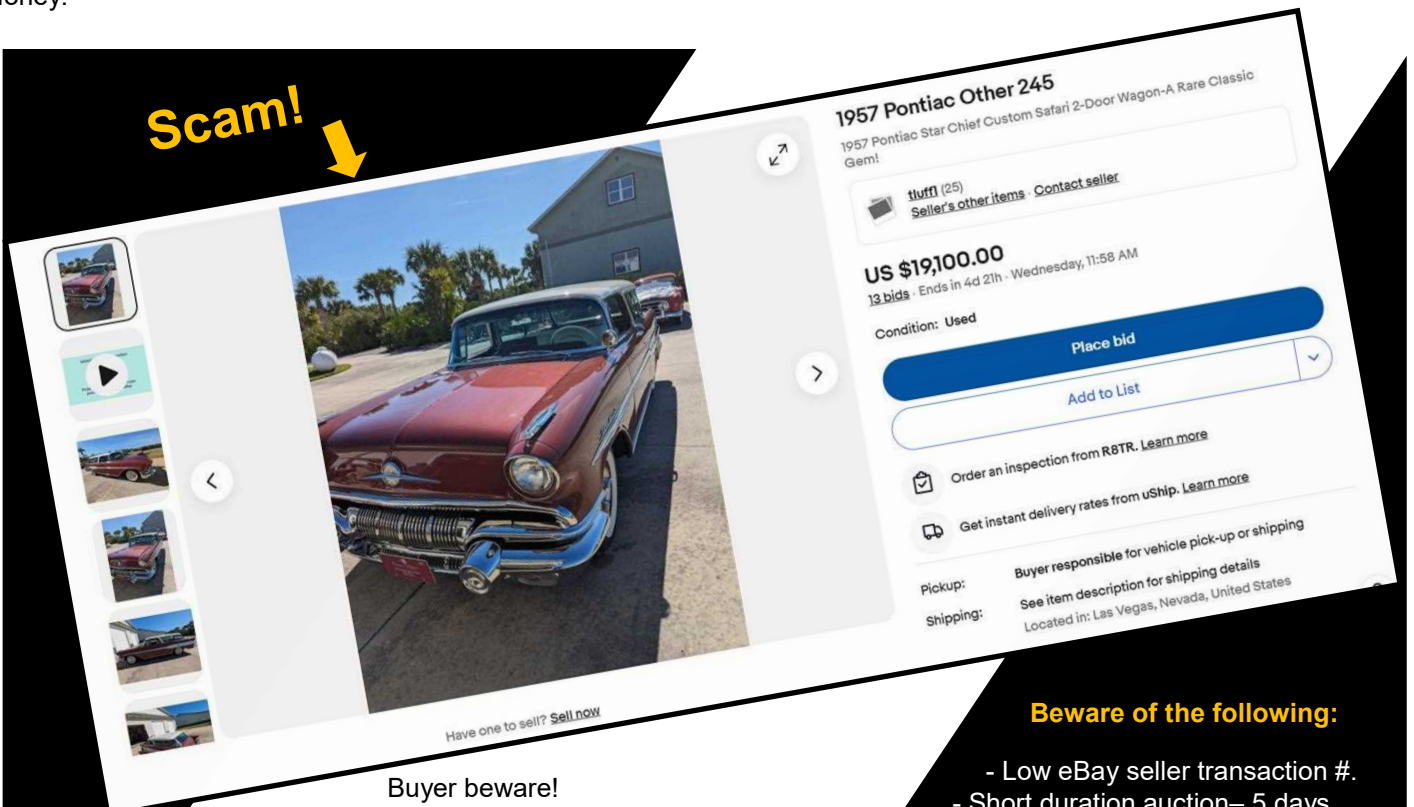
By Tom Young

Would you make a outside deal with a new eBay seller to buy a fully accessorized and restored 1957 Safari wagon for 25K?

Well, not too long ago, a criminal downloaded photos of this blue & white Safari from an online auction website, then used them to create a fraudulent eBay auction. Fortunately, the scam was caught just in time before anybody lost money.



Scam!



Buyer beware!

We have all heard the old adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

The same can be said about some Pontiacs for sale on the Internet.

During the month of February, two previously sold 1957 Safari wagons were placed on eBay for auction. The problem was that neither wagons were being offered by their lawful owners. The auctions were scams!

Beware of the following:

- Low eBay seller transaction #.
- Short duration auction— 5 days.
- Method of payment: by wire funds.
- Use of grammar & spelling.
- Photos taken from another website.
- Lack of description or words taken from another website auction/ad.
- Vehicle that was sold in a previous auction.

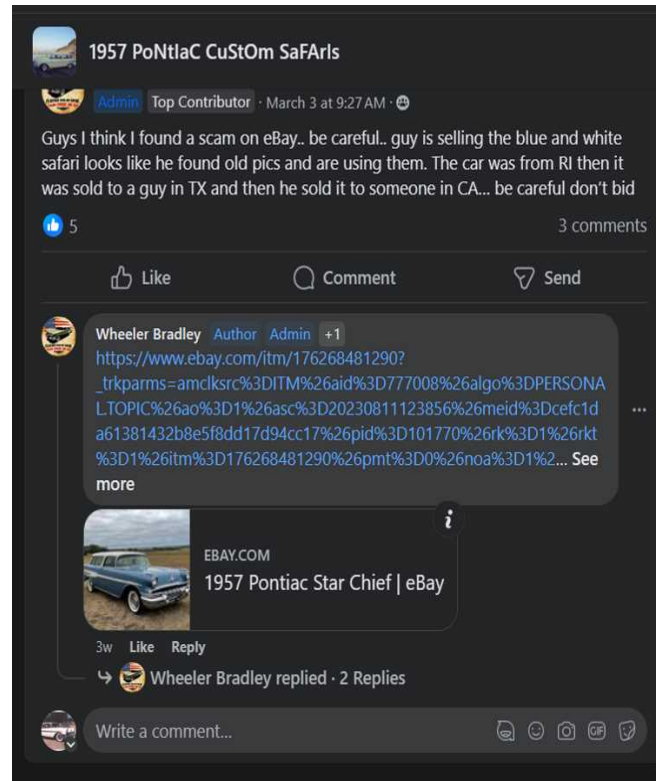
Trust. Our hobby is based upon trust and mutual respect. We share a common interest with our Safari wagons. We expect to be treated fairly and with courtesy. We anticipate that trust is mutual and that nobody intends to steal our money and/or cars.

Trust is certainly not an attribute that has resiliency in today's world which is dependent on electronic communication technology. Too many opportunities exist where trust can be discarded in favor of fast, low risk theft, done electronically to unsuspecting hobbyists.

We are not immune to fraud.

There is help. We are fortunate to have our own vanguard of Safari owners who are watchful for fraud in all sources of electronic media. One such member is Wheeler Bradley who diligently warns others through postings on Facebook. He, and other Safari owners advises online service providers, such as eBay, of fraudulent auctions. Such efforts often result in the rapid removal of scam auctions, thus saving unknowing bidders thousands of dollars that would otherwise be taken by scammers.

We will be watchful for scams.



Things to do:

- Research the seller.
- Contact club members who may have knowledge of the Safari wagon.
- Ask the seller questions that an owner should know.
- Ask to have the Safari inspected.
- Ask for supporting proof of ownership.

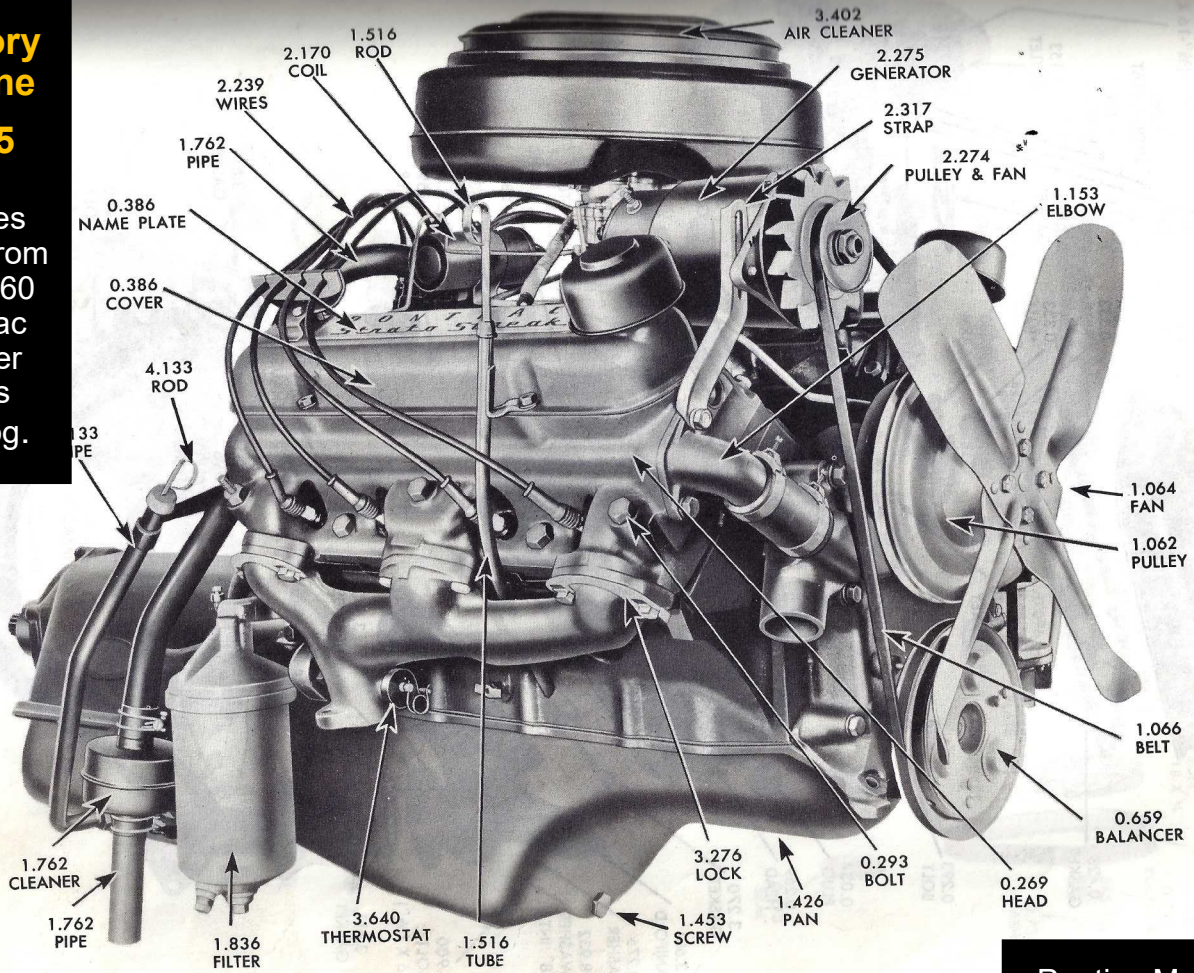
Safari wagons are not the only vehicles used by scammers.

In late February, an auction appeared on eBay offering a 1957 Pontiac Bonneville as shown above. A plethora of clues were easily seen including; a suspicious description, incorrect grammar and basic facts, a short auction time, limited conditions of payment, and non-conforming photos taken from various online sources including a recent auction.

Once again, POCI members notified eBay who promptly removed the auction listing.

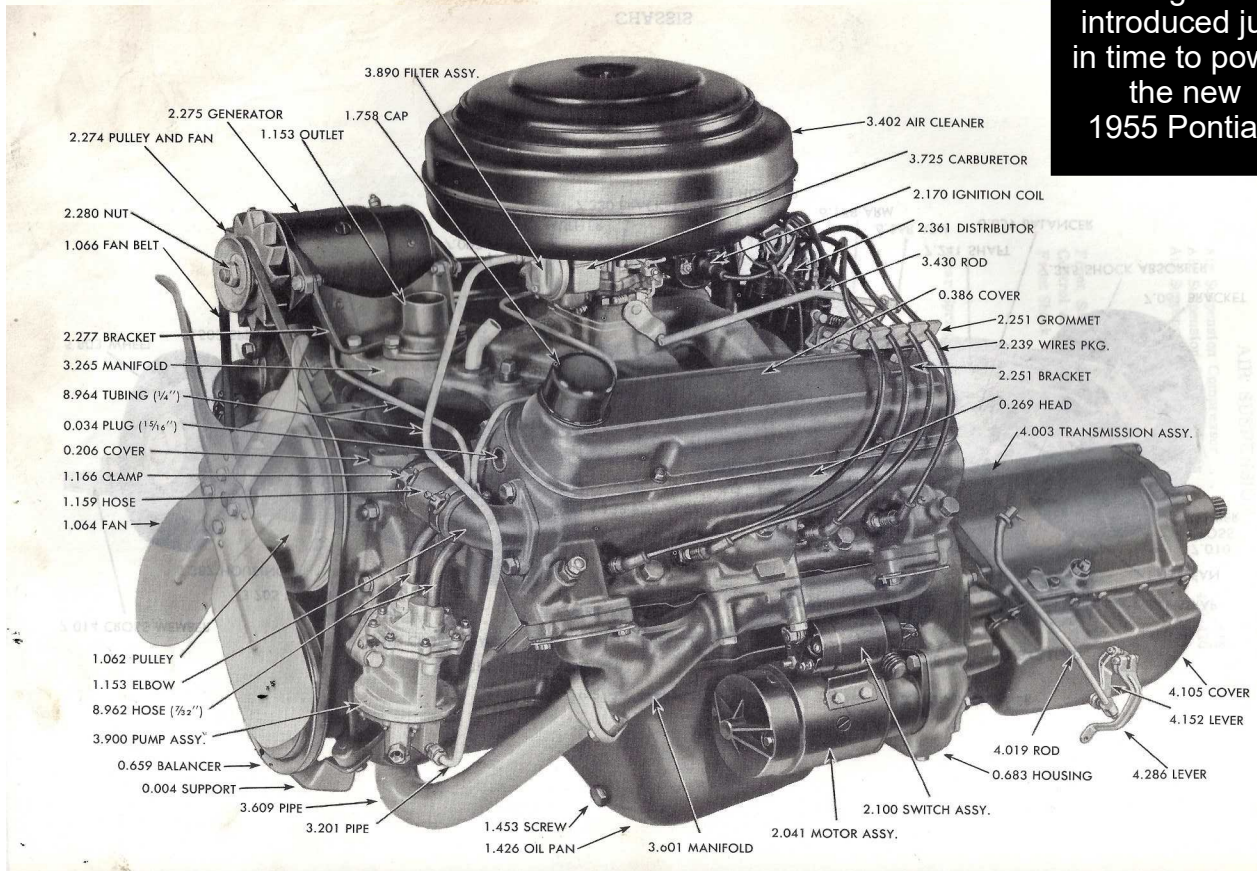
**Factory
Engine
1955**

Images taken from the 1960 Pontiac Master Parts catalog.



ENGINE ASSEMBLY

Pontiac Motor Division's new V-8 engine was introduced just in time to power the new 1955 Pontiac.



FOR SALE

1955 Star Chief Custom 2 door Safari wagon for sale.

\$75,000 OBO.

The seller says, "This vehicle is gorgeous! It's in excellent condition with a clean title, and always garage kept. Two previous owners with newly finished interior and upholstery. Blue & white interior to match the vehicle with gorgeous chrome moldings." Odometer 21746.

Contact Bob:
bob@concourseelite.com



More photos area available.
Contact the seller with your request.



Editor's Note: The seller says that this Safari is available for inspection. It is located in the city of Chico, California. The seller is a non-chapter member who has granted us permission to spread the news about his Safari wagon.



SAFARI WAGONS FOR SALE

Dick Hanson's 1956 Star Chief Custom 2 door Safari wagon is for sale.

\$35,000 OBO.



Richard Hanson reports that his '56 Safari wagon is for sale. A dealer is handling the sale and provides the following info: "Rare wagon! Light blue and white two tone exterior was painted about 13 years ago and still shows well with a few chips. The car has an excellent running ZZ4 350/355hp crate engine with a turbo 350 transmission. Power front disc brakes. Modern Cadillac Eldorado power front bucket seats. "Vintage Air" air conditioning and heat. Currently registered with a clean California title. Runs and drives great." Contact: Carbuffs - (925) 671-2010



View this car on their website at carbuffs.com/7279745/ebrochure

Editor's Note: This Safari is located in Concord, CA.





1957 Pontiac Star Chief Custom 2 dr Safari wagon.

Fontaine Blue & Kenya Ivory. Body No. 1078. Trim -244. Paint—QPP. ACC = BKII ACC.-BK11

I bought this car out of No. Cal in 2015. It has a mid 80s Camaro subframe welded in, a professional install. It has the original '57 rear axle and the body is original & good condition. Glass is good except on curved rear glass is cracked. Still in place and intact Under hood is set up for original 347, as new front mount is designed into the Camaro crossmember. A 347 could go with the car. Has a 80's steering column, power booster and master cylinder all plumbed in. Has original hydro in chassis. Radiator is a cross flow from the Camaro donor car, and fits in the new core support. Dash has been changed out to a wood insert with SW gauges.

I have a 1957 Pontiac 4 dr donor car that has the following parts if a restoration is wanted: Complete original frame, original front clip, original untrimmed fender wells, original heater assembly, original dash cluster and stainless trim. A 347 in car with aftermarket AC compressor. Original front bumper that will need to have new brackets made

to fit the Camaro subframe or bolt to donor frame if restored. Has 4 cool old mags on it that need sand blasted and power coated or rechromed. All this for \$20K. All serious offered will be considered. Car is in Tucson. Donor car is in Phx. Could transport if needed. Possibly for \$1 per mile.



Contact Jack K. Johnson @ (602) 576-6512 or skulptr1@gmail.com



\$11,950. Good body. Not running. Comes with 4dr hdtpr parts car from California with great driveline and power disc brakes. Can hear parts car run and yard drive. Enough parts to build a good running 57 Safari. I have the bumpers, grill, rear lift window, front seat, body side moldings, and window trim moldings. Located in Western PA. Call Jan at 724 295-3785 EST.



1957 Pontiac Star Chief 2 door Safari wagon for sale.

Listed on the Facebook Marketplace. \$74,500. Located in Arlington, AZ

The listing reads, "PS, PB, new paint & interior. New tires."

"Newly restored. Perfect condition."

You must contact the seller through Facebook's Messenger.

Editor's Note: This Safari was previously owned by Aspen Pittman. For sale by a non-CSC member.



1956 Pontiac Star Chief 2 door Safari wagon for sale.

Tinted Glass, Padded Dash, P/B, W/B Radio.

Rust front floor pans, spare tire well, cargo areas and a few small areas.

New gas tank & unit, Floor pans, Repo V8 emblem and Center Bar and Handle, Rechromed 6 T/G Bars.

Have original Qtrs.

\$12,500.00

For further information/questions, call Terry:

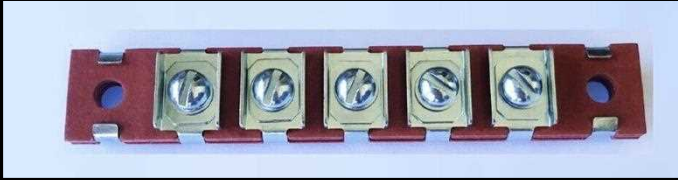
Home # 573-788-2147 or cell # 573-225-4483



PARTS FOR SALE

WANTED

1955 & 1956 Pontiac 5 terminal Headlamp & Parking Lamp Junction Block \$19.50 plus \$6.35 shipping, USA.



This is a mandatory part that everyone should have. Factory originals are prone to cracking or breaking completely free, thus causing a potential electrical short hazard.

1955-1957 Pontiac Safari Wagon & Chevy Nomad Ctr Tailgate Bar Handle, C4671778R

\$90.00 plus \$7.00 shipping, USA.



1957 Pontiac All Hood Ornament Insert. New, C523601R

\$75.00 plus \$7.25 shipping, USA.

For all of the above, contact **California Pontiac Restoration (CPR)**.
714 245-9800 PST CA. www.pontiacparts.net



1958 Pontiac Safari tail light housing & lenses. Used. Housing from a Star Chief Custom Safari wgn. Lenses R2B-58. \$250.00 plus shipping. **Ed Vassar, Dunnigan, CA**
707 246-4426 PST.

1957 Pontiac: Light green plastic ivory steering wheel in useable condition for a Limefire & Seacrest Green Safari.
Jay Ward. jward@pixar.com

1957 Pontiac: Wanted for '57 custom 2 door Safari, rear rubber floor covering in any color, also mint seat stars.
Call **George Weaver** at **717 354 5280**, or email at **fun57@comcast.net**

Wanted for a 1955 Pontiac: Glove box key latch.
Harold Cary 2315 19th S.W. Mason City, LA
50401 **buzz@netconx.net**

FOR SALE: 1956 Pontiac Lighted Hood Ornament. Chrome 99% perfect. Cracks in plastic insert. \$160 plus \$25 shipping, Continental USA only. If you are not satisfied with the ornament, I will provide refund minus shipping costs. Also, good working '55-56 Pontiac distributor, complete. FREE! Just pay shipping. Contact Bob at (360) 903-5432 PST, or email at: **rbsyno@yahoo.com** (friend of CSC member)



SERVICES



Need a good working generator and/or starter for 1955 through 1958 Pontiac?

With decades of professional experience rebuilding starters & generators, long-time chapter member Rich Gabrielson can likely rebuild your starter or generator. Call **Rich** with your needs @ **510-919-5756** PST, or mail him at: **pamiesuesguy@yahoo.com**

TO PLACE AN AD: Send your request to Tom Young at: **pontiactom1957@gmail.com**
Your ad should be related to '55 thru '58 Pontiacs, and include photos when possible.

POCI Chapter #10

The Custom Safari Chapter is an official international specialty chapter of the Pontiac Oakland Club, International, Incorporated. We are dedicated to the



limited production 1955 through 1958 Pontiac Star Chief Custom Safari wagons. The club headquarters address is P.O. Box 421, Long Lake, MN 55356, USA. Website: www.poci.org

Our team: President: Lou Calasebetta, NJ. Vice President & Webmaster: Rich Pye, NY.
Secretary/Treasurer: Robin Petry, GA. Newsletter Editor & Events: Tom Young, CA.

Anyone with interest in Safari wagons can join. Annual dues are \$25.00 for printed newsletter or \$8.00 for electronic newsletter membership. Check with our Secretary/Treasurer for printed newsletter international rates. 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 your check to our Secretary/Treasurer, **Robin Petry, 2806 Scarlett Dr, Augusta, GA., 30909**, or use **PayPal** on-line payments. Send funds to: petrymail@yahoo.com. Please provide us with your preferred email address & phone number.

The **Safari News** is a quarterly publication distributed to dues-paying members. Our first newsletter was issued in June, 1977. Newsletter distribution was restarted with Volume 1, Number 1, in December, 1993.

You may request a free copy of the **Safari News** by contacting our newsletter editor, Tom Young at pontiactom1957@gmail.com or 805 375-1320.

Our chapter website can be found at: www.customsafari.org

Find us on Facebook at: [Custom Safari Chapter, POCI, 1955 thru 1958 Pontiac](#)

POCI NATIONAL CONVENTION Springdale, Arkansas July 15th-20th

Mark your calendars and plan now:

July 17th: POCI Welcome Party 6-9pm

July 18th: Annual Chapter Meeting 10-11am

July 20th: Popular Vote Gathering 1030 am



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

Our **SPRING** newsletter will have more news about our National Convention activities and a call for chapter officer nominations.