



*Winter 2004 - 2005
Volume 6, Number 4*

Custom Safari Chapter

Custom Safari's at the 2004 POCI Western Regionals



Pontiac Oakland Club International

From the President's Garage

By Mark Petry

“Pontiac Love”

I hope that all of you had a safe and happy holiday season and the Santa left some Safari goodies under the tree. I've titled my president's message “Pontiac Love” as a tribute to the way we feel about our Safaris on the 50th anniversary of their introduction in 1955. That year GM said goodbye to the venerable “flathead” engines and introduced modern overhead valve V8's across the board including our beloved Pontiac “Strato-Streak”.

I often wonder what a Pontiac assembly line worker would have said if we could go back in time and tell him that the Safari he was building would be a sought after and loved collector car half a century later and even have a national car club dedicated to it. I'm sure he would have said we were crazy!

I have found that our love and dedication to these fine automobiles, as well as, the mid-50's era can take many forms. Such as our endless tramping through muddy auto swap meets until our feet beg for mercy as we look for the elusive part....searching catalogs hoping the part they send is the right one so we don't have to go through the hassle of sending it back.....preferring to hunt through a newfound junkyard to possibly find that long lost treasure rather than being on the finest golf course in the world...and even thinking “Boy, I love the smell of old 90W gearlube in the morning!”

Another area, Robin and I have enjoyed is collecting automobilia. There seems to be an almost endless variety of factory published material, as well as, advertising items, dealer give-aways and related items that keep us on the hunt. They can be found at auto and regular swap meets, yard sales, junk and antique stores and let us not forget the ever-popular Ebay. I have sent along some pictures of our more interesting finds. Hope you enjoy them and would love to hear about your treasures.

In the love of this hobby, some of us are fortunate enough to have spouses who share our enthusiasm and obsession while others of us appreciate the support of a spouse who may not understand our obsession with these “ancient” automobiles but allow us to work into the wee hours in our garages, track in grease and spend money while attending endless car shows and listening to hours and hours of “car talk” with our buddies.

Lastly, what I love most about our hobby is the fellowship shared with others of like minds that want to restore these pieces of history and share these rare and magnificent automobiles with present and future generations while forging strong friendships that often span many years.

Convention Update: *The 33rd Annual POCI Convention is fast approaching and will be held July 12-16th in Greenville, SC. I have been in contact with Chris Johnson of the Palmetto Chapter who is in charge of room scheduling. I gave him our request for a room to hold our annual meeting early morning so we can cruise to breakfast afterwards. He has put us on the master list and will contact me when details are available. Robin and I plan a trip to Greenville in the near future to scout out a restaurant for our breakfast. Look for more details in the next newsletter.*

*Until next time...Happy Birthday Safari!!!!
Mark Petry*

“Pontiac Love”



Above and below: Some of the memorabilia from Mark and Robin Petry's collection. Pontiac Tootsietoys and Sales booklets seen here.



“Pontiac Love”



Above and below: Some of the memorabilia from Mark and Robin Petry's collection. Pontiac matchbook covers, stamping plates, and various sales and service literature.



Behind the Wheel in the Editor's Seat

By Rich Pye

Hello Everyone,

It's been a long winter with no end to the snow in sight, but getting this newsletter out makes me think about one thing..... the next newsletter..... which makes me think about what I am going to put together..... in the Spring!! See when given lemons, make lemonade.

One order of business is that DUES ARE DUE right now. You'll see a form in this issue to fill out and return with your \$18 to Starr Evans. Please do that at your earliest convenience, so you don't miss out on any future issues.

There's some neat stuff in this addition of the Safari News. From Mark's memorabilia, to the Western Regionals, to the very first inaugural issue of the Custom Safari Chapter newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1. It came about as a result of an email I received from Steve Cory back in January. Steve went to our web site and contacted me regarding the chapter and some of the members. A few of you will remember that Steve was the first President of this chapter. He is no longer a member, but was interested in what is going on and wants to catch up with folks at the Annual chapter meeting at the POCI convention this summer.

As I recreated the first issue, which is in the back of this newsletter, it really re-energized me around my role as newsletter editor for this chapter. It was interesting to see how the founders of the chapter put in that extra effort to make what we often take for granted happen. I know it's not rocket science, but almost 28 years later, I appreciate the effort of the original group to form this chapter.

What also hit me is that this chapter can be as great as we want it to be. I know over time topics are rehashed and we think we've discussed ever subject, but there are lot of people that are newer owners who don't have that knowledge and would love to hear from those of you with it. A perfect quote from Steve in the initial article hits the nail on the head regarding our chapter, "We are here to share our ideas, experiences, stories and restoration tips with each other so that we can learn from each other." Please remember that and continue to supply information to me to share with others. If you have submitted something recently, Thank you. If you haven't in awhile or never have, please take the opportunity to do it. It really doesn't take a long time and is pretty painless!! As you can expect, it also makes my job easier and more enjoyable.

In closing, get ready to dust off your favorite ride or enjoy the warmer weather ahead while your restoring it and make your plans to join us at the 2005 POCI convention in Greenville, SC.



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

Rich

Safari Member of the Quarter

Your Name: *Marvin Morton*

Safari(s) Owned: *1957 Custom Safari*

When/Where did you acquire your first Safari? *January 2000 in Fair Oaks, CA*

What was your first car? *1957 Chevy 4 door Hardtop*

What was your first Pontiac? *1992 Bonneville SSE*

Reason for “collecting” Safaris: *I like the style of the ‘57s. They are rare and unique also.*

Reason for joining the Custom Safari Chapter: *To share knowledge and experiences with other Safari owners.*

Favorite Safari Accessory owned: *No favorite*

Most wanted Safari Accessory: *None*

Do you have “other” Pontiacs? If so, list model and year: *Bonneville SSE - 1992*

What are your favorite non-Pontiac hobbies? *Car stuff is my only hobby.*

Least favorite car task: *Calling for a tow truck.*

Most favorite car task: *Driving*

Best thing about being a Pontiac Custom Safari Owner: *Having one instead of wishing I had one.*

Favorite non-Safari car: *1933 Ford Victoria*

Favorite car-related web site: *None*

Favorite parts vendor: *CPR - California Pontiac Restoration and swaps meets.*

Best car care tip to share: *WD-40 will help remove unwanted stickers. Plumber’s Putty around the tailgate is a temporary fix for that “caught in the rain on the way to the car show” leak. ED note: Good idea!!*



Safari Member of the Quarter

Marvin Morton



Marvin Morton's 57-2764DF Safari. The body number is CL 1260, pretty close to the last one made. Does anyone out there own one with a later number? Marvin's Safari is pretty much in original unrestored condition with Trim package 244, Paint code QQH, and Accessory group BK11.



2004 POCI Western Regionals

Content supplied by Marvin Morton

The Silver State Chapter of POCI hosted the 2004 Western Regional Convention. The show was held at the Atlantis Hotel Casino on September 17-18-19, 2004 in Reno, NV. There were eight Custom Safari's, (4 - '55s, 1 - '56, and 3 - '57s) at the show. The car owners were:

Owner	Residence	Year	Show Class
<i>Norm & Bird White</i>	<i>Minden, NV</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>Stock - Host Club Display</i>
<i>David Hitchinson</i>	<i>Novato, CA</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>Unfinished</i>
<i>Rich & Pam Gabrielson</i>	<i>Newark, CA</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>Unfinished</i>
<i>Frank Chavez</i>	<i>Sacramento, CA</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>Modified</i>
<i>Larry & Debbie Strain</i>	<i>Pengrove, CA</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>Modified</i>
<i>Steve & Cindy Scott</i>	<i>Sacramento, CA</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>Modified</i>
<i>Glyn & Jan Rowley</i>	<i>Santa Rosa, CA</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>Stock</i>
<i>Marvin Morton</i>	<i>Redondo Beach, CA</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>Stock</i>

The award winners were:

Glyn & Jan Rowley *1st Place Stock*
Marvin Morton *2nd Place Stock*

Steve & Cindy Scott *1st Place Modified*

Rich & Pam Gabrielson *2nd Place Unfinished*



Above: *Larry & Debbie Strain's 1956 Modified Safari. It's Turquoise and White and equipped with a '76 Trans Am front clip, a 403 cu. in. engine, 350 Turbo-Hydromatic transmission, and a Trans Am Positraction rear-end.*

2004 POCI Western Regionals

Content supplied by Marwin Morton



Above: Norm & Bird White's 1955 Stock Safari. It's Firegold and White Mist and an original and unrestored car.



Above: Rich & Pam Gabrielson's 1955 Unfinished Safari. It's Primer and Rust and holds the defending title of "Best Rust". It's freshly winterized with duct tape along the roof. It is mechanically restored with the engine and under carriage, runs great, and is driven to many shows and events.

2004 POCI Western Regionals

Content supplied by Marwin Morton



Above: Dave Hitchinson's 1955 Unfinished Safari. It's Firegold and White Mist with many accessories. It has wire-wheel covers, a visor and traffic light viewer, spotlight, power antenna, front and rear bumper guards, and an amber illuminated hood ornament. It also has a unique white fur headliner, door and side panels, and sports a racoon tail on the antenna.



Above: Frank Chavez's 1955 Modified Safari. It's Dark Brown and White and sports many high performance powertrain and mechanical parts. This car was For Sale at the time of the show, but was recently sold.

2004 POCI Western Regionals

Content supplied by Marvin Morton



Above: Marvin Morton's 1957 Stock Safari is Silver and Black and is a mostly original unrestored car. It is a late production car (production number 1260), with a Wonderbar Radio, and era accessory spotlites and roof rack. Glyn and Jan Rowley's 1957 Stock Safari is White and Silver. It has air conditioning, GM accessory spotlite with mirror, a WonderBar Radio, and is an early production car (production number 160). They have owned the car since 1971.



Above: Steve and Cindy Scott's 1957 Modified Safari is Lavender. It has a 454 cu. in. LS6 425 HP. engine and a TurboHydromatic transmission. It also has a 9" Ford positraction rear-end and 4 wheel power disc brakes. The front clip is from a Chevy Nova. The interior has a GM tilt steering column, a GM 60/40 power front seat, custom built rear seat and dash, and vintage air conditioning.

Vintage Article

Original Chapter Newsletter, by Steve Cory

CUSTOM SAFARI CHAPTER NEWSLETTER - VOL. 1 NO. 1
JUNE 1977



WE DID IT

Finally after many months of work by many people, the Board of Directors have given a charter to the Custom Safari Chapter. We are the 11th chapter affiliated with P.O.C.I. according to P.O.C.I. President Joe Stout. Starting a chapter involves many little details, and many of the little details are not complete, so I will try and use this informal newsletter to clear them up.....Please excuse the business-like tone of this letter. I promise that the rest of the newsletters will be more relaxed.

RESULTS

The results of the questionnaires are discussed below. All of our members stated that dues should be collected, however, as expected there was a difference in the opinion as to the amount that should be collected. Eight of our members gave no opinion at all as to the amount. Eleven members said the amount should be between \$1.00-\$5.00 and Twenty-one members said that the dues should be between \$5.00-\$15.00. After looking over all the questionnaires I noted that the most common amount listed was \$5.00 and I tend to agree with this figure. This would give us \$200.00 to work with (not including any donations to the chapter by chapter members) and would enable us to print a conservative newsletter 6 times yearly along with a roster. At the end of this newsletter I have included another small questionnaire. If you will all return the answers to me as soon as possible, it will help clear up some of the details I mentioned earlier. I received 18 newsletter title suggestions and in the interest of fair play I will list them all below. If each of you will pick one good title and send it back to me, I'll tally the results and the one with the most votes will appear at the top of our next newsletter. They are:

THE TAIL GATE

THE END GATE

SAFARI NEWS

SAFARI SCRIPT

SURFIN SAFARIS

THE WAR PATH WAGON

THE WAR WAGON NEWS

WAGON HO!

TRAIL SIGNS

THE TRAVELER

THE SAFARI CALL

WAGON WHEELS

THE SAFARI AFFAIR

UNITED SAFARI ENTHUSIASTS (USE)

SOCIETY OF SAFARIS (SOS)

55-56-57 SAFARI WAGON POCI CHAPTER

55-57 SAFARI STARS AND BARS

CUSTOM SAFARI PONTIACS

There are a lot of good suggestion, so take your time and pick a real winner!

Vintage Article

Original Chapter Newsletter, by Steve Cory

Most of the ideas sent to me on the questionnaires dealt with the format of the newsletter. Everybody that sent in suggestions seemed to want the following:

- 1- Parts Wanted Section
- 2- Parts For Sale
- 3- Listings of Parts Cars and Their Locations
- 4- Articles and Pictures written by members...and
- 5- Current Chapter News

I feel that the parts for sale and wanted sections should only include Safari parts and Safari Interchange parts (including Nomad). After all, there would be no reason to have a newsletter if we listed all the Pontiac parts that we have for sale. This is already done for us in the Smoke Signals publication. Number 4 (listed above) is very important. We are here to share our ideas, experiences, stories and restoration tips with each other so that we can learn from each other. As the budget allows, we will try and print the many photos that you have sent to me. Believe me, hearing about a car is one thing, but seeing it is another!

OFFICERS

I am enclosing a list of the By-Laws and Constitution that I prepared (with the help of Art Ruscher) for the Board of Directors. Stick these in a safe place and keep them for your own record. As you can see in the Constitution the offices will be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. At this point I am filling in all of these capacities and need help desperately. We also need a volunteer for the Newsletter Editor. If you would like to serve in one of these capacities or would like to nominate someone else, please let me know as soon as possible. I am enclosing a list of our current members for you to choose from. After all the volunteers and nominees are listed, we will hold an election of officers by mail.

A SMALL PROBLEM

Many of our members expressed the opinion that only 1955-1957 2 door Safaris should be allowed in the chapter. Some even said that 4 door Transcontinentals would not be included in the first place, if someone other than I had started the chapter. I can not disagree with this opinion. By excluding Transcontinentals the chapter would loose about 5 cars (not members - it is not necessary to own a Safari to be a member of the chapter). I can not speak for the other 4 members, however I will be willing to drop my car from the roster (not my membership) if the members so vote. Think it over and let me know.



Vintage Article

Original Chapter Newsletter, by Steve Cory

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

At the end of most of the letters that I write, I usually say "I'm looking forward to meeting you". Well, this is a sincere statement and out of this statement I received an idea. From now on I will try and include a small profile of one or two of our members, so we can learn more about them and feel more like friends. I decided to use myself as an example in this newsletter, but I will need help from everyone if this idea is going to work. Here Goes!

Name: Steven J. Cory, age 22

Wife: Lisa

One Child: Daughter-Summer Louise, age 1 year

Occupation: Traffic Accident/Homicide Investigator
Ft. Lauderdale Police Department

I have been a member of P.O.C.I. since April 1976.

I am a member of AACAFt. Lauderdale Region.

I hope that everyone likes this idea and will send me a little note about themselves and their families.

OUR ROSTER EDITOR

Don DeLo of Longview, Texas has volunteered to compile the roster for us. He sent me a letter with some really good ideas and I am sure that his plan will please everyone. He will be sending out a small note of explanation in the near future.

A BIG THANK YOU

I am very pleased that this chapter has been approved and that you have supported the idea of a chapter. This makes me feel good that the time and money that has been spent so far, has not been spent in vain, but instead was spent to accomplish a goal, and this goal was met. This chapter has the potential to become something that we can all be proud of and based on the letters that I have received so far, I can see that it will. Since taking on this project I have learned that it can not be accomplished overnight. This is mainly because we are scattered all around the world. It will take time to elect our officers, set up the newsletter and get to know each other, but the end result will be positive. I am looking forward to a successful chapter and a chapter that will promote the image of P.O.C.I. as being a friendly club with friendly members. Thanks!



Vintage Article

Original Chapter Newsletter, by Steve Cory

ONE LAST FAVOR

I am asking each one of you for one last favor. Please send me the answers to the questions below before June 30, 1977.

- 1) Will you accept \$5.00 as your yearly dues?
- 2) What is your choice for the newsletter title?
- 3) Who are your nominees for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer?
- 4) Should Transcontinentals be excluded from this chapter?

Also, send me any advertisements that you may have, either wanted or for sale. Also if you have any restoration tips, stories about yourself or your cars or items of interest for our readers, please don't hesitate to send them to me. When mailing in ads, use the same form that is used for ads in the Smoke Signals.

OUR MEMBERS

The members listed below, are listed in the order in which I received their questionnaires. Their addresses and car descriptions will be listed in the roster. The number beside your name is your membership number.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - Steve Cory, Florida | 22 - Michael Munger, California |
| 2 - Danny Parker, Florida | 23 - Lou Calasibetta, New Jersey |
| 3 - Art Ruscher, Florida | 24 - Paul Sylvestri, California |
| 4 - Richard Gleason, New Jersey | 25 - Jon Braaten, Norway |
| 5 - Keith Anderson, Washington | 26 - Bud Stowers, Colorado |
| 6 - Randy Kroft, Nebraska | 27 - Joe Oliver, New York |
| 7 - Bob Brown, Michigan | 28 - Gary Jordan, Texas |
| 8 - Jerry Keller, Ohio | 29 - Carroll Fader, Alaska |
| 9 - Don DeLo, Texas | 30 - Don Morgareidge, Wyoming |
| 10 - John Eichinger, S. Dakota | 31 - Peter Keogh, Connecticut |
| 11 - Dick Krieger, Ohio | 32 - Phil Menard, Canada |
| 12 - Edward Hustad, Minnesota | 33 - Bill Walkinshaw, Nebraska |
| 13 - Eugene Boeglin, Florida | 34 - Jim Young, Pennsylvania |
| 14 - Ron Huddy, New Jersey | 35 - Melvin Reed, Pennsylvania |
| 15 - Gerald Redden, New Jersey | 36 - Steve Brumm, California |
| 16 - Albert Chartier, Canada | 37 - Glyn Rowley, California |
| 17 - Ron Pittman, Illinois | 38 - Marty Errickson, Colorado |
| 18 - Skip Lile, Arkansas | 39 - John Harvey, Michigan |
| 19 - Don Milinkovich, Minnesota | 40 - Len Sokol, New Jersey |
| 20 - Ron Fulsang, Illinois | 41 - Dennis Vaughan, Florida |
| 21 - Fred Leyland, New York | 42 - Joseph Boyd, New Mexico |

Our next newsletter deadline is August 1, 1977.



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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