

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PCPV CHAPTER OF POCI
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016



PONTIAC LEMANS ENFORCER

PONTIAC-OAKLAND
Club International

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PCPV News

January/February 2016

Volume 19 ~ Number 1

**The Newsletter of the Pontiac
Commercial and Professional
Vehicle Chapter of POCI**

The **PCPV News** is published six times a year by the Pontiac Commercial and Professional Vehicle Chapter of the Pontiac-Oakland Club International (POCI), a nonprofit organization.

The PCPV Chapter (chapter #79, founded in 1998), is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, education and enjoyment of commercial and professional Pontiac, Oakland and GMC vehicles, past and present. These include: limousines, taxi cabs, hearses, police and fire cars, ambulances, sedan deliveries, station wagons, trucks, vans and SUVs. Pontiac and GMC produced military items and other special interest items are also included.

Dues are \$20 per year (U.S. funds, \$25 outside of U.S.); \$12 for electronic membership. We recommend membership in the Pontiac-Oakland Club International also - see **www.poci.org**.

Send change of address notices and article submissions to the *PCPV News* editor.

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Deadlines for *PCPV News* articles/want ad submissions:

January/February issue: January 1st
March/April issue: March 1st
May/June issue: May 1st
July/August issue: July 1st
September/October issue: Sept. 1st
November/December issue: Nov. 1st



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Pontiac Enthusists!

Well, how is everyone's winter going? I seen last week the East coast got hammered. My sisters live out there, raised here in central Nebraska so they understand what its like to drive on ice and snow. Apparently a lot of people in their areas don't have those abilities! Less brakes and SLOW DOWN! Alright, alright. I sure will be good to get spring here!



I did get a little room in my shop as my daughter's fiance sold his '70 Nova and all it's parts left too! But as you know it doesn't take long to fill the void!

Everyone take care and see ya on the road less traveled!



*Mike Leonard,
PCPV President*



If you could pick a life-size Pontiac pick-up, which of these you you choose? I'm partial to the '69. These are cool vintage 1/24th scale model kits, pretty hard to come by!

VP's Two Cents



We just got home from the Grand National Roadster Show in Pomona, California. After living out here for 46 years and always attending the show (it started out here in Northern California in 1950), I finally had a car that was good enough to show. It's a full custom 1950 Chevrolet. It was great finally being in the show so now I don't have to go anymore!

The 1961 Pontiac is now getting it's second new engine. The first one spun a rod bearing, so they had to do the whole lower end all over again. Hopefully we will finish the installation this weekend (first week of February) and I'll finally have it back on the road for good and can finish the body work and paint.

We're finally getting a lot of rain! Great news after four years of drought.

Enjoy the rest of the winter, Spring isn't far away. This is February 2nd, but I don't know what the groundhog said.

Gary Minor
PCPV Chapter Vice President



Anyone interested in purchasing these Pontiac photo frames? One is personalized for a 1934 Pontiac and the other for a '72 Trans Am. Contact Paul B., editor



Looking Out The Back Door

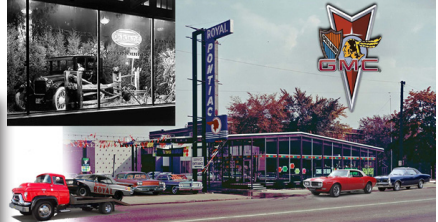
As the Pres. and VP said, Spring will come soon and we can turn our attention back to our Pontiacs and hit some car shows and cruise events. I am working on an '84 Fiero to get running for my son, Ian, who recently got his driver's license. The Fiero has a 4-speed so I will be able to teach him how to drive a stick shift. We are putting a new head on the ol' Iron Duke 4-cylinder then we can get it on the road and see what else needs to be taken care of to make it road worthy.

Thanks to the PCPV Chapter officers for continuing their service. If it's time for you to renew, I hope you do! We sure appreciate your support. We are a small chapter, we need to keep afloat and....

Keep the PCPV Legacy Alive!
Paul Bergstrom, Editor



Starting with Oakland in 1907, then Pontiac in 1926..



Bettendorf, Iowa - July 12 - 16, 2016



Still with ... **DRIVING FIDELITY**

2016
POCI Convention
Isle Hotel & Casino
Bettendorf, Iowa

July 12-16

Visit www.poci.org for on-line registration, information on the planned activities, hotel availability and other updates- or call the the POCI Club Office at (877) 368-3454.

It's that time again...

**If your dues are due,
we have enclosed a renewal
form for you to use.**

**Thanks for your
continued support!**

EBAY WATCH

This cool-blue '54 wagon was recently offered on eBay. Guess what- it once belonged to POCI founder **Don Bougher!**



S-T-R-E-T-C-H

REMINDER TO VOTE

It's election time for the POCI Board of Directors.

Use the ballot located in your February 2016 issue of SMOKE SIGNALS.

Include your chapter affiliation(s)!



1974 PONTIAC CATALINA LIMO/AIRPORTER, RUNS AND DRIVES GOOD, 454 ENGINE. \$4,500 O.B.O. POSSIBLE TRADE. CALL 575 642 6700 (New Mexico)



SAWRUK'S STASH



POLICE AGENCIES "THINKING SMALL" Pontiac's mid-size police package, the LeMans Enforcer, now is the top-selling police equipment package in all of General Motors. Available only to law enforcement agencies, the LeMans Enforcer includes a 400 cubic inch V-8 engine with four-barrel carburetor, three-speed automatic transmission, modified steering components and a choice of two high-ratio rear axles. It also includes a heavy duty engine cooling package, special suspension and police instrument panel instrumentation. The Enforcer package is offered on both the LeMans two-door hardtop coupe and four-door hardtop sedan.

FOR RELEASE: Immediately

#

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
PONTIAC MOTOR DIVISION
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48053



Thanks to **John Sawruk, Jr** for sharing this PMD press release from his Dad's collection of Pontiac artifacts!

I wonder if Bufurd T. Justice read through this at his local Pontiac dealer and then decided that the LeMans Enforcer would be awesome as a Bandit chaser?

PONTIAC  **WE BUILD EXCITEMENT**

The 1975 Pontiac Astre Li'l Wide Track

By Dennis Carol

It's no secret that I have a small love affair with H-body cars. That is because my first car was my grandmother's 1971 Chevy Vega. I always thought of it as a poor man's Camaro from a styling perspective. Pontiac got its own version of the H-body, known as the Astre, in 1973 and 1974 for the Canadian-only market. Starting in 1975, the Astre was available for the U.S. market as well. The Vega and Astre both went out of production at the end of the 1977 model year.



The 1975 Pontiac Astre Li'l Wide Track

The Astre was more expensive than the Vega, so sales were slower by comparison. In an attempt to boost sales of the slow selling compact, late in the 1975 model year, Pontiac came out with a special edition dubbed the Li'l Wide Track. It was the creation of Jerry Juska, president of a small Detroit area marketing company called Dymar. Juska took his idea to Dave Landrith of Motortown Corporation (which just so happened to be Jim Wanger's company in those days), a company that specialized in custom auto work. The package

included a front air dam, a rear spoiler, Appliance wire mag rims, window louvers, a chrome exhaust tip, and bright stripe decals for the hood, body sides, rear spoiler, door handles, and wheel centers.

Motortown assembled a couple of prototype cars in January and February 1975, and took the pictures to local Detroit area Pontiac dealers where the package gained their acceptance. It added a little over \$400 to the price of the Astre, but the dealers felt that the difference in looks was worth the price. Production was switched from an old warehouse in suburban Detroit to a factory beside the Lordstown, Ohio Vega/Astre assembly plant. The package components were later offered as a dealer installed kit. An estimated 3,000 Li'l Wide Track Astres were reportedly ordered by dealerships, according to Jim Wangers, although only one known example still exists today.



The sales brochure indicated that the Li'l Wide Track was available in several colors, when in fact this was not the case. Again, Wangers insists that all 3,000 production cars made were painted silver, and the two prototypes (a wagon and a hatchback) were white. No other colored Li'l Wide Tracks were produced. All the production cars were hatchbacks. The wagon version was never built.

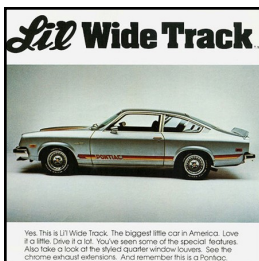


The white wagon was only a prototype and never produced commercially, but allegedly, there were 3000 hatchbacks made.

The Li'l Wide Track is clearly an interesting example of the colorful "decals and spoiler performance" packages that became sort of

Li'l Wide Track (Continued)

vogue in the auto industry during the mid-to-late seventies; a time when actual horsepower and performance were on the decline. Clearly, the Mustang II Cobra II/King Cobras, Aspen R/T, and Volare Road Runners were much more successful examples (sales wise) than the Li'l Wide Track.



Yes, this is Li'l Wide Track. The biggest little car in America. Love it or hate it, drive it or sell. You've seen some of the special features. Also take a look at the styled quarter window louvers. See the chrome exhaust extensions. And remember this is a Pontiac.



Multi-Colored Custom Accent Stripes.
Special Cast Aluminum Wire Wheels.

Functionally styled Lower Front Air Dam.
Integrated Rear Air Deflector.



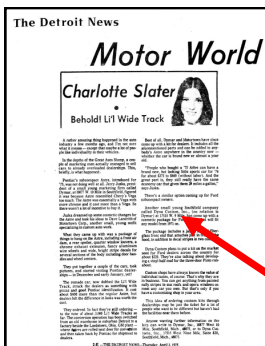
Above: The original sales brochure detailing some of the car's features

Below: Detailed view of the window louvers



There seems to be some question as to whether 3,000 Li'l Wide Tracks were truly produced given the lone known survivor, especially among the H-body community and web forums. Jim insists most of the 3,000 were reportedly built for the Detroit area, as well with a few heading off to other areas. Given that, you would think many of us Widetrackers would remember seeing these cars on the roads back in the 1970s and early 1980s. I honestly don't remember them. I do remember the Kammback Vegas, Astre Formulas, and later on the Sunbirds, Monzas, Firenzas, and Skyhawks that replaced the Vega and Astre.

The last thing that probably contributes to the lack of surviving Li'l Wide Tracks is the car itself. Other than the unique spoiler/decal package, underneath it is still a basic L-4 2-bbl automatic Astre. These cars, like their Vega brothers, had quality and rust issues and were sent to the junkyard over time, or they were rounded up, cut up, and transformed into race cars. It is rare to see a stock, unmolested Astre or Vega today period. No one probably gave a second thought to the car's novelty or rarity, especially because it was a compact economy car. Still, the Li'l Wide Track is an interesting footnote in Pontiac history.



Obviously, the car was made—as this article from the April 3, 1975 edition of *The Detroit News* would confirm... But sightings are few and far between.

Thanks to **Dennis Carol** for allowing us to reprint his article. About 8 years ago, I saw one of these at a car show here in Minneapolis. I like these “Li'l Wide Track” Pontiacs!- Editor.

POCI 2016 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Here is an overview of the POCI 2016 Scholarship Award:

It is awarded to a child or grandchild of a POCI member in good standing who has submitted an application for consideration of the evaluation process.

- The scholarship amount is - \$1,500.00.
- Available to High School Seniors, College Students (2 or 4 year school) and Trade School attendees.
- It can be won just once but applied for more than just one year giving more chance to win.

The scholarship is an annual award presented at the POCI Convention. Payment is made after the 1st semester transcript is provided to the committee chair to show attendance at the school of the winners choosing. At that point a check is drafted by our treasurer for payment.

Application questions are drawn from the following criteria:

- 2 or 4 year College, or Trade School
- Plan to major in, Plan to minor in
- School & Community Activities, Work Experience
- Academic Achievements, Honors and Awards
- Leadership , Creativity, and Goals

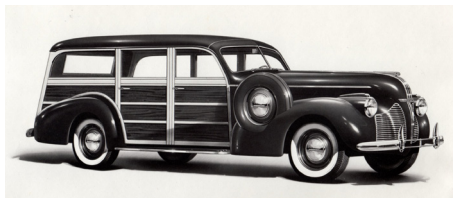


Please advise your membership of the scholarship to give everyone qualified an opportunity to compete for this very prestigious award from POCI.

All completed applications must be postmarked by May 1st.

The 2016 Scholarship Application form is available to download and print on the www.poci.org web site..

Questions: please contact the POCI Scholarship Committee Chairman
James Patterson (315) 652-5794 AntiqueCarParts@msn.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



POCI Convention
July 12-16, 2016
Bettendorf, Iowa
www.poci.org for more details



PCS 2016 Meet ~ Gettysburg, PA
August 15th-20th, 2016
www.pcsmeet.com



Pontiac Adventures

September 16-18, 2016
Wisconsin Dells

Join us for 2016
Judging & Tours

Presented by Pontiac-Oakland Club International

3rd Anniversary
Touring Events with Show and Shine Judging
at Chula Vista Resort



Visit PontiacAdventures.com for more information

FINE '59



Hi Paul, I hope all is well with you and you're having a great holiday season. Here's a nifty old ad from my collection that perhaps members might like. I like how the two tone even extends through the grill surrounds. Hopefully I'll find some time this year to work on my '59 Landau.

CHEERS, *Karl Eisbrenner*

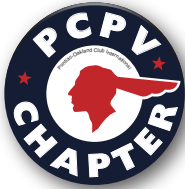


How about a custom Trans Am flat-bed, from down under... different, eh?

PCPV Membership - Renewals for 2016

If your membership dues are due, please use the enclosed renewal form and send payment to the PCPV Treasurer.

We appreciate your continued support!



PCPV Classified Ads

Parts For Sale

For sale: GM Shop Manuals, book vendor sale. Almost 2,000 books 1960-2000. In good condition. Ideal money maker for young vendor. Priced to sell all at \$1 each, \$2,000 buys all. Also, Motors, Chilton, Mitchell books in this pile. **Rodney Brockman**, 24862 Ridge, Elwood, IL 60421 (815) 478-3633

1955 Pontiac parts: complete under seat heater system, radiator; **1955 pontiac Star Chief 4-door sedan** (motor. trans out for rebuild) no rust, new interior \$3,800. **Mike Koch** (937) 572-8035 (OH)

Newsletter Contributions Wanted

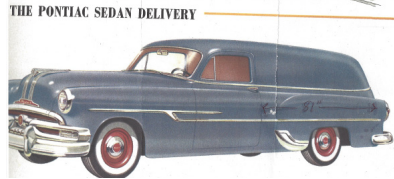
Send photos, stories, want ads, restoration tips, or just drop a note to say hello. Tell us what's happening on the Pontiac/Oakland/GMC scene in your area!

E-mail submissions to
pontiacpaulb@gmail.com



Parts Wanted

1949 Pontiac Sedan Delivery: I am looking for a set of 1951 Pontiac full size hubcaps with the chief in red. I have available a set of original '49 SD bucket seats, complete and nice. I also could use an exterior windshield sunvisor for my '49 SD. **Mike Theim**, yellowsidecar@hotmail.com or call 920-261-6724 (WI)



1953 Pontiac Sedan Delivery: battery tray, under seat heater core and the stainless-steel trim 81" long for the driver's side only. Contact **Roger Bentley** (MD) email: airlinebuff2000@yahoo.com

1949 Pontiac parts wanted: Quarter Panel Stainless- Spears for 1949 Pontiac 2dr or sedan delivery, **Russell Cogar** 304-847-7542

Pontiacs Wanted

Wanted: 1955 Safari: contact Tom Baker (252) 675-0200 (NC)

Pontiacs For Sale

1955 Pontiac 2-door wagon for sale in Colorado. Call (720) 629-9526

PONTIAC OWNER SERVICE POLICY



Parts/Pontiacs Wanted

Canadian Pontiacs and GMCs: wanted light-duty GMC sales brochures 1937-1958 showing panel trucks and sedan deliveries; Canadian Pontiac brochures 1937 - 1962; 2003 Vibe manuals and dealer literature. Contact **John Preikschat**, Phone (306) 771-2929 email: bigjohn@sasktel.net (M)

1956 Pontiac 3-seat wagon: need 3rd seat for pattern. Have 4 wagons with no rear seats! Chevy will also work. **Perry Eaton** (530) 534-5510 (CA)

Literature/info wanted - for '66 Bonneville Superior Embassy limousine. Contact **Joe Sharpnack** (402) 789-3015 (NE)

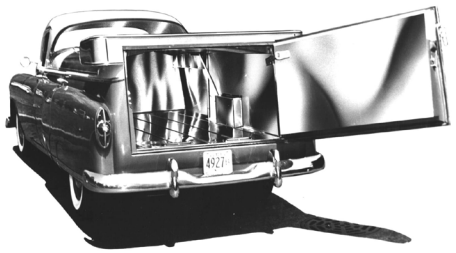
1962 Superior Criterion Ambulance: 15" Deluxe wheel covers, '62-era Superior Coachworks assembly manuals or photos to help with restoration. **Matt Planning** (262) 646-3363 matthew@brewcityengineering.com (WI)

Wanted: any literature for the 1955-56-57 Pontiac Sedan Delivery. **Rodney Brockman**, 24862 Ridge Road, Elwood, IL 60421



Restoration Tips

1926-1958 Pontiac parts: Free parts catalog available from California Pontiac Restoration. Contact **Richard Plastino**, (714) 245-9800 email rich@pontiacparts.net, mailing address: 820 Poinsettia Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701



PCPV News

Classified Ad Rates:
(for 6 issues)

\$200 full page
\$100 half page
\$50 quarter page
\$25 business card size

POCI New Membership Form:

Year _____ Style Name/Number _____ No. Cylinders _____

Year _____ Style Name/Number _____ No. Cylinders _____

Year _____ Style Name/Number _____ No. Cylinders _____

Owner: _____

Associate Member(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP+4 _____

Country _____ Phone: () _____

Email: _____ Referred By (Name & Member#): _____

Pontiac Oakland GMC

Annual Membership

Worldwide E-Membership	\$25.00
U.S. (Includes 2 Associates)	\$39.00
Canada (Includes 2 Associates)	\$40.00
Foreign (Includes 2 Associates)	\$49.00
Associate Membership (All)	\$2.00/each

Bill My: Visa Mastercard
 Discover

Card Number: _____

Expiration: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER!

PCPV Chapter Membership Form

___ NEW MEMBER ___ RENEWAL

POCI Membership # _____ (if applicable)

Annual Dues = \$20.00 Outside of U.S. = \$25.00

Electronic Membership = \$12.00 (newsletter received via email)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/PROV. _____

ZIP/POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

email: _____

Vehicles owned: _____

Send check or money order made out to:
PCPV Chapter of POCI, c/o Terry Columbus
7516 Xerxes Avenue N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444



PCPV Chapter of POCI

c/o Paul Bergstrom, Editor
1165 County Road 83
Maple Plain, MN 55359

**PONTIAC COMMERCIAL AND
PROFESSIONAL VEHICLE CHAPTER**

PONTIAC-OAKLAND CLUB INTL.

